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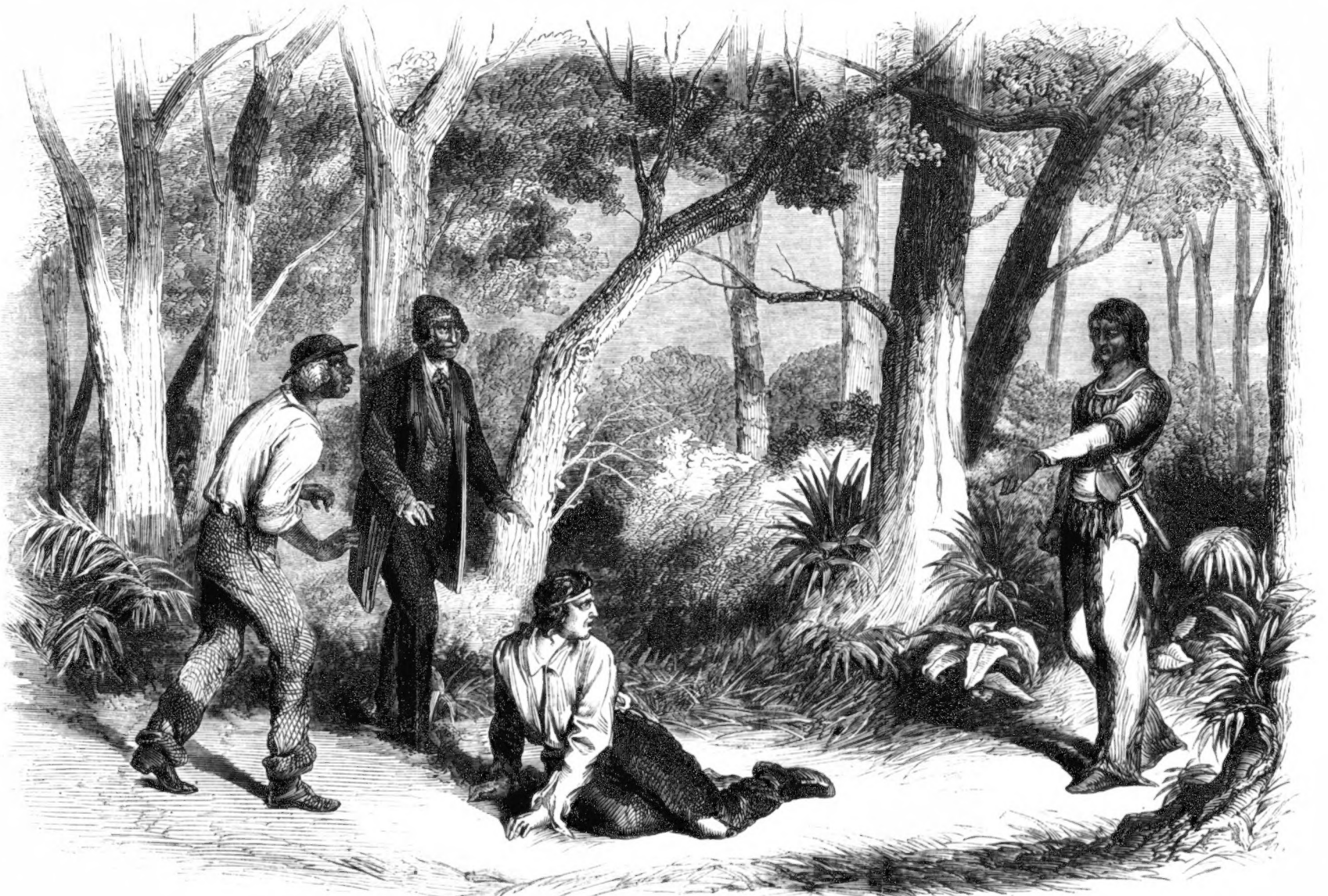
## TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE secret of Lord Stanley's long reticence is now clearly revealed. *Il a reculé pour mieux sauter.* Like his ancestor at Bosworth Field, he has continued hovering on the flank of either hostile array until Victory had adjusted her pinions for a decisive swoop. With the dwellers on Olympus, he favours the conquering cause and looks upon Cato as a simple-minded theorist or puritanical fanatic. Weary of inaction and observant of the signs of the times, he has now constructed his "platform," and invited the British public to witness his performance "at home." Could mankind be governed on abstract principles, the noble Lord might fairly hope to occupy a foremost position in the Administration of his country, and not solely to his own advantage. But, whether for weal or for woe, human passions, even in the middle of the nineteenth century, exert an untoward influence, and men must be ruled by those who have like feelings with themselves. Lord Stanley, however, appears to ignore, or misunderstand, this obvious truism. His views of government are those of a philosophical dictator. He issues his programme utterly unmindful of opposing and counteracting elements, and seems to fancy himself a second Coriolanus within the walls of Corioli. So far as the experience of past ages and of other countries is applicable to the precise and really unparalleled state of society in the British empire, it is a matter of evidence that the existence of contending, if not hostile, parties is essential to the welfare of every nation. This lesson Lord Stanley refuses to learn, and seeks to trim his lamps so that they shall appear equally bright in outer darkness, in twilight, or at noon. But no true statesman, no man whatever possessed of real character, ever halted long between two opinions. A country devoid of political parties is like a stagnant pool unruffled by a breeze. Nepotism, a mocking cynicism, and a corrupt refinement, creep over the surface of society and invest it with a fetid miasma, through which the very rays of the sun are broken up into gaudy colours. And this is the political phase that must inevitably ensue if a Cabinet could be formed to carry out the views enunciated in Lord Stanley's carefully-elaborated essay on "the topics of the day." Probably the first impression made on every mind after the perusal

of his Lordship's address to his constituents is one of regret that such an impartial, fair-spoken, statesman should be excluded from the Cabinet; but, as certainly, the second will be that his exclusion is owing, if not to feebleness, at least to the want of force of character. Lord Stanley, to a certain extent, resembles a strategist putting his forces through intricate and beautiful manœuvres far away from the shock of arms, but who in presence of the foe would find himself sorely perplexed as to the handling of his troops, and equally unable to lead them on to victory or to organise a safe retreat. His mind is a pendulum between the future and the past, with a strong gravitation to the present. The Church is in no danger, but he would abolish church rates. The institutions of the country are sound and self-governing, but he approved of Lord Russell's embryo Reform measure, which would have introduced an element of perpetual change at the dictation of a turbulent minority. Though opposed on principle to commercial treaties, he was in favour of Mr. Gladstone's improvident bargain—surrendering necessities for luxuries, and bartering coal and iron for cheap silks and sour claret. A friend to the diffusion of knowledge, and averse to restrictions on the manufacture of paper, he nevertheless voted for the maintenance of all existing impediments, and would have postponed to an indefinite period the realisation of views which he held to be of paramount importance. Fully aware of the advantages of a reasonably-rapid promotion in the Army, he designates as "detestable" the system by which that desirable consummation has hitherto been attained. Confounding reaction with retrogression, he finds fault with a phrase which yet, he says, expresses a reality, and takes the trouble to explain that Conservatism is neither the spirit of innovation nor the resuscitation of the dead. Thus sailing at random over the sea of politics, guided only by a compass that points immovably to "Place," the right honourable member for King's Lynn has shown himself to be an excellent fair-weather pilot, spreading every stitch of canvas to catch the breath of popular applause, but heedless of rocks and shoals and treacherous currents. The son and heir of the fourteenth Earl of Derby may be a political pedant, but he is certainly not a reliable statesman, or one to guide the councils

of his Sovereign. Like Mohammed's coffin, drawn to earth but aspiring to heaven, he clutches at the doctrines of the Liberals while casting a remorseful glance at the time-honoured institutions and ancient landmarks which many believe have made this country great, conspicuous, and free above all other nations of the world.

Lord Stanley's programme, however, has been much less discussed during the last few days than the presence of a Confederate war-steamer in the hospitable waters of Southampton harbour. From the general interest pervading this topic of the moment one might almost suppose that this miserable little vessel had come to shake out the alternative of peace or war from the reefs of her sails. In defiance of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, she has presumed to enter a British port with prisoners and prize property on board, and trusts to a quibble for present impunity and future advantages. We have little reason, indeed, to show any favour to the Federal cause; but all the more for that are we bound strictly to adhere to the spirit of her Majesty's proclamation. The Nashville has undoubtedly contravened the true purport of that public document, and, consequently, forfeits all claim to hospitality and friendly treatment. As for the Federalists themselves, they are walking in the footsteps of both ancient and modern Democrats, and, seemingly, with the like result. As the Athenians of old suspected and coerced their generals in the field, as the French Revolutionists impeded every strategical movement and distrusted every competent commander, in like manner has the Federal Government turned an eager ear to disparaging reports, and, without waiting for proofs, has superseded a popular General on the eve of a battle. From the mixed expedition to the South it would be absurd to expect any decisive results. The occupation of a point on the seaboard which commands only a vast expanse of swamps is simply the repetition of our own fatal expedition to Walcheren, where fever and ague proved more deadly foes than sword or bayonet. It is suggested, indeed, that the opening of a port to the cotton trade will tend to soften the hostile feeling with which this civil strife is regarded in France and England; but is it to be supposed that the Confederate Government will sanction a commercial intercourse between its subjects and the enemy?



SCENE FROM THE NEW ADELPHI MELODRAMA "THE OCTOON."—THE RED CEDAR SWAMP.





And this is the only way in which cotton could be exported, for, as hitherto, the carriage of that staple would be chiefly effected by Northern merchants and shipowners.

A far more agreeable prospect is that which awaits us in the fabled East, where the British rule seems at length upon the point of proving a blessing to the people beneath its sway. Lord Canning, if sorely tried at the commencement of his viceroyalty, has been singularly fortunate towards its close. His name will for ever be inseparably connected with the final subjection and pacification of India and the practical development of its material resources. Under his firm and intelligent administration, the most terrible calamities have been converted into sources of unmixed benefits to the many millions of human beings placed under his governance. His last act is likely, above all things, to consolidate the British supremacy and to increase the wealth and prosperity of the country. It is now in the power of any man, whether native or foreigner, to become the proprietor of freehold estates, exempt from the constant interference of officers of the revenue, and encouraged to exertion by the knowledge that every improvement he introduces will be to his own absolute advantage, and not an excuse for the augmentation of his land tax. Europeans may now embark, with certainty of success, on many speculations which were closed to them by the jealousy of the former régime. The finest tea in the world may be profitably grown in Assam, Cachar, and on the spurs of the Himalayas. Coffee, and all kinds of cereals, may likewise be cultivated to immense advantage, and in a climate admirably adapted to the English constitution. Health, wealth, and a joyous life are the inducements now held out to small capitalists to try a venture in India.

#### SCENE FROM "THE OCTOORON."

ALTHOUGH the scenery of "The Octoroon," as a whole, is not particularly striking, there are one or two tableaux which are well managed, and have a good effect. One of these, which we have engraved, represents the discovery of M'Closky, the villain of the piece, concealed in a swamp to which he had fled after his villainy, was found out and he had escaped the hands of justice by setting fire to a steamer on the Mississippi. In this wretched hiding place he was haunted by horrid dreams and the terrors of a guilty conscience, and here the avengers of his crimes traced him, and inflicted on him the retribution from which he could not again escape. The scene recalls similar ones described in Mrs. Stowe's "Dred," and Longfellow's "Slave in the Dismal Swamp," though with very different associations. Both the place and the feelings of the wretch are "dismal" in the extreme.

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

The state of the finances still continues to be the main topic of discussion in Paris. It does not seem likely that any very substantial reduction of the armaments of the empire will be carried into effect. Indeed one journal, in an article entitled "On the Impossibility of Disarmaments," declares that it is impossible for France to disarm when, in view of the questions which await a solution, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and England, either cannot or will not do so. A disarmament effected by France alone would not consolidate the peace of Europe. On the contrary, it would everywhere awaken the hopes of the reactionists, and would compromise the laborious work of the second Empire. France would thereby lose the benefits of her latest victories, and would, moreover, desert the cause of justice and right in the councils of the Powers, after having made it triumph on the field of battle. It was expected that an official statement of the measures to be adopted would have been published; but M. Fould does not appear to intend to give any explanation of his plans till the meeting of the Senate. The statement is to be reserved for the report which the Finance Minister is in the habit of addressing to the Emperor every year in the course of December. Other accounts, however, state that the reforms proposed by M. Fould, which have been discussed in the late Ministerial Councils, will shortly be announced in the *Moniteur*. The Minister, it is alleged, does not intend to lay on any new taxes. Although this assertion may allay the apprehension of the public, it will the more excite general curiosity to know the process by which M. Fould can accomplish his task without resorting to the expedient of taxation. The reduction of the army, it is said, will be limited to sending home on furlough 30,000 men; and as regards the navy, four sail of the line are to be laid up in ordinary, but six iron-plated frigates are to be commissioned. According to the *Patrie*, the control to which the Government will submit itself in financial matters will be that of the Senate. Count de Casabianca, one of the Emperor's Aides-de-Camp, is to make a motion, on the assembling of that body, to the effect of enabling it to discuss financial measures sent up from the Lower House.

#### SPAIN AND ITALY.

Fresh difficulties appear to have arisen in reference to the Neapolitan archives question between Spain and Italy. The Spanish Government made it a condition of their delivering up the non-political documents that King Victor Emmanuel should withdraw his first notes, in reply to which the Italian Government demanded that Spain should withdraw the notes in which she declared herself the legitimate depository of the archives. To this we presume the Spanish Government dissented, as the Sardinian Minister demanded his passports, and left Madrid on Tuesday.

#### PORTUGAL.

King Luis, on the 24th inst., presided for the first time at a Council of his Ministers at Lisbon. The young King declared that he would follow the constitutional policy of his brother, and that he hoped to lead to a favourable issue the improvements commenced by his predecessor. He begged the members of the Council to continue to aid him with their enlightened assistance.

#### BELGIUM.

The recognition of the kingdom of Italy by the Belgian Government has formed the theme of a warm debate in the Chamber of Representatives. On the part of the anti-Ministerialists nothing but the old arguments have been adduced—the Italian revolution is but a Piedmontese invasion, the Neapolitan provinces are kept in servitude by Piedmontese arms, &c. The Minister of Finance, M. Frère Orban, in reply, pointed out that the recognition of a Government could only be refused where the right of that Government was actually contested by some belligerent party, and in Italy there is but one Government everywhere acknowledged, and no belligerent party. He asked, too, whether, if an outrage were done to a Belgian citizen by the authorities of Modena or Parma, the Belgian Govern-

ment would apply for reparation to the Duchess of Parma or the Duke of Modena? And if the Belgian Government applied to the King of Italy, would he not ask by what right it demanded the protection of a Sovereign whose existence it had refused to recognise? The debate was adjourned.

#### SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council has demanded satisfaction from the French Government for the fresh violation of Swiss territory by French gendarmes near Geneva.

#### ITALY.

The Italian Parliament appears to be in excellent temper with the Government, and to be actuated by a very good spirit generally. It has passed the bill for extending the war tax over the whole of the recently-acquired provinces, a measure which had been several times before withdrawn. It has also sanctioned a bill for the alienation of crown lands; and other measures of an important character are receiving careful consideration. The steps taken by the Government in reference to Rome and the Pope will be found noticed in another place. In the sitting of the 26th the Neapolitan members, the Duke di Proto and Signor Maddaloni, laid on the table of the House a petition demanding a Parliamentary inquiry into the state of things in Naples. This petition was worded in extremely violent terms against Sardinia. The Chamber decided that it should be read in public sitting. Great sensation has been created by this incident, but the hostility of these members is not likely to receive much support, even from their colleagues from the south; and altogether the position of Baron Ricasoli's Cabinet appears to have improved.

In consequence of the military levy which has been ordered, the Italian army will consist in future of ninety regiments of infantry, seven brigades of bersagliers, and twenty-two regiments of cavalry.

On the night between the 23rd and 24th inst. a detachment of French troops made 110 brigands prisoners near Alatri. They also seized two cannons in the mountains. It is stated that the brigands are being concentrated near Ricigliano, and that troops have been dispatched to meet them.

According to some of the Italian papers, Garibaldi is about to visit Genoa early in December for the purpose of assisting in the deliberations of the Committee of Prevision, which he himself established. He will then, it is stated, set out for Turin, and take his place as a member of the Chamber of Representatives. Negotiations are on foot between Garibaldi and the Government with the view of inducing the former to take the command of the volunteer army about to be raised.

A Milan journal states that the Italian Government, having in view eventualities which might arise out of the Mexican affair, has determined upon dispatching a frigate to the Mexican waters.

#### AUSTRIA.

Advices from Vienna of the 22nd state that the Ministry has decided not to present the Budget to the Reichsrath until the Transylvanian question is settled.

The Chamber of Deputies is discussing the bill relative to personal liberty. The first point under discussion was an amendment of M. Klandi, proposed last year, which reproduces the article of the fundamental rights—"No man can be deprived of his natural judge. No exceptional tribunals can be created." The committee to whom the amendment was referred proposed to admit the first portion of the submitted article, but to reject the second. The conclusions of the committee have been adopted.

On the 22nd the houses of all the functionaries and members of the Municipal Commission of Pesth were filled with soldiers, in virtue of an order from the Administration of the Finances, and an announcement was made to the commune that, as long as the functionaries themselves did not levy the taxes, and did not promise in writing to levy them in future, not only the functionaries but the communal representatives would have soldiers billeted upon them. An extraordinary sitting of the Municipal Council was held, and the Mayor tendered his resignation. An ecclesiastic then declared that the people were dissatisfied at having to lodge soldiers, and that he thought they had better give up a useless resistance and resign themselves to what was inevitable. He proposed the election of a new Mayor. His conclusions were adopted, and a new Mayor elected. An order was shortly afterwards received by telegraph to withdraw the soldiers.

Prince de Schwartzburg, President of the Council of Administration of the Credit Institution, has tendered his resignation.

It is asserted that Count Apponyi has tendered his resignation as Juxta Curie of Hungary, and will be replaced by Count Almassy.

The General Congregation of Croatia has, under certain reservations, ordered the military levies to be made in Croatia. The same Congregation has also notified to all the functionaries that all official correspondence is to be conducted in the Croatian language.

#### PRUSSIA.

Some replies made recently by the King of Prussia to deputations which addressed him in Breslau have just been published. In one of these speeches he emphatically urged the deputation to take care in the elections not to return any men but those who were prepared thoroughly to co-operate with him, and announced that he did not want either Reactionists or Democrats. He complained that in Posen too many people meddled in politics, and especially demurred to the interference of the clergy in political matters.

Prussian politics are about to lose an influential and gifted member of the Liberal party. Von Vincke, who distinguished himself so much last Session, has announced that private affairs will positively prevent him from accepting a seat in the new Prussian Parliament.

#### GERMANY.

The question of the German fleet was again brought before the Frankfurt Diet in its sitting of the 21st inst. The Assembly being in sufficient number to deliberate, the Hanoverian Plenipotentiary declared that, according to the new instructions which he had received, his Government, far from abandoning its primary project, intended to exert itself, by every possible means, to see it realised as soon as practicable. This categorical declaration of Hanover was received with approbation by the majority, while M. Usedom, the Prussian representative, remained silent.

#### RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The result of the Emperor of Russia's investigation into the late disturbances at the Universities appears to be unfavourable to the authorities under whose management they occurred; for, according to letters from St. Petersburg which had been received at Berlin, the resignation of Admiral Putiatin was momentarily expected.

The situation of affairs in Poland has not changed. On the 13th inst. great numbers of the officials, burghers, and merchants were presented to the Governor at the Royal Palace. General Lüders received the gentlemen coldly and silently, and dismissed them very speedily. Nothing is known of the Jewish rabbis recently apprehended, since up to the present time members of their family are forbidden to see them; but they are permitted to receive their food from their homes, and also books, tobacco, and cigars. It is stated that they have not yet undergone any examination. It is feared that more severe measures in connection with the prevailing martial law will be introduced. Up to the present time the inhabitants have been allowed to pass through the town throughout the night if provided with a lantern; but now General Lüders has so far restricted this freedom that persons are only allowed to be abroad from seven till nine in the evening, and after nine no one is allowed to be in the streets, even if provided with a light. This measure was believed to be caused by the fear that disturbances might arise on the 20th inst., the anniversary of the Revolution in 1831.

Fifteen persons condemned for taking part in the late political demonstrations have been conveyed from Warsaw to Orenburg.

#### CHINA AND JAPAN.

According to advices from China to the 15th of October, the allied troops were at that date leaving Tien-Tsin and Canton. The rebel were troublesome at Ningpo and Hangchow, and the trade at those ports was much obstructed by them. In Japan the state of affairs is said to be more favourable.

#### INDIA.

The news from Calcutta is nearly confined to speculations on the cotton cultivation, and to the discussion of the Governor-General's resolutions for the sale of waste lands and the redemption of the land revenue. The latter measure is generally approved, and the greatest expectations are entertained of its valuable effects.

The news from China is merely confirmatory of that already received by telegraph.

#### CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope describe the state of affairs as still unsettled. In Kaffraria Proper, Krelli was threatening to attack the Tambookies; Pretorius was intriguing for the possession of St. Lucia Bay, which is claimed by the English; and Panda and his son Ketchwago still demand that the Natal Government should give up the latter's younger brothers and rivals, which the Lieutenant-Governor had refused to do. The agitation on the separation movement had greatly diminished. The news received of Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Livingstone was good.

#### THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

BEYOND the attack upon Port Royal, the capture of Beaufort, and the battle at Belmont—particulars of which are given below—there is little of stirring interest in the news from America. The movements among the Confederate forces on the Lower Potomac seemed to indicate that reinforcements were being dispatched to the points threatened on the Southern coast, and it was reported that General Beauregard had proceeded to take the command in South Carolina. No action of any kind is reported from the Potomac. In Missouri it is asserted that the Federal army will not advance beyond Springfield. This looks as if the position and number of General Price's forces were too imposing to be attacked, which we inferred from General Fremont's quiet submission to the Washington orders. There was a report of an engagement at a place called Picketown, in Kentucky, in which General Nelson had obtained a victory over the Confederates after two days' hard fighting, the latter having 400 killed and 1000 taken prisoners.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has addressed a communication to the State Department in reply to Mr. Seward's circular recommending the fortification of the sea coast. The Governor, in this communication, states that he cannot understand why individual States should be asked to fortify themselves if, as stated in the circular, there is no prospect of a disturbance of foreign relations. He does not doubt that Congress would reimburse the States for their outlay, but calls attention to the delay in the payment to Pennsylvania by the Federal Government of the sums advanced for the equipment of volunteers, and suggests that it would be better for the general Government to erect the fortifications. If necessary, however, Pennsylvania would respond patriotically to the calls of the country.

Ralph Waldo Emerson has delivered a lecture on American nationality, in which he says, characteristically:—"Our leaders may be timid, but events are bold, and what signifies a proclamation or Secretary's order against the logic of events? In spite of themselves, one army will stand for slavery pure, and the other for freedom pure." Such is the belief which is entertained by one of the most philosophic minds in America.

At the enthusiastic ovation which was given to General Fremont at St. Louis, the ex-commander, in returning thanks, said he should "make occasion" to answer the various charges which had been preferred against him.

There was a report that President Davis is to be relieved of the presidency, which probably has as much truth in it as the reports of his death.

#### THE ATTACK ON PORT ROYAL, AND CAPTURE OF BEAUFORT.

THE great naval expedition, of which so much has been said and such great things expected, has, so far, seemingly realised anticipations. On the 7th inst. the fleet attacked Port Royal, in South Carolina, and, after a fight of four hours, succeeded in capturing it, and in driving back the Confederate forces. An army of 15,000 men then landed, and marched upon Beaufort, which, however, they found totally destroyed by the retreating enemy. The plantations in the neighbourhood had also been laid waste. Beaufort, it is expected, will be held by the Federals as the basis of future operations. A collector will be appointed, and the port opened to commerce. There had not been any official report of the engagement received at Washington at the departure of the mail, but a Philadelphia paper publishes the following account of the attack on Port Royal:—

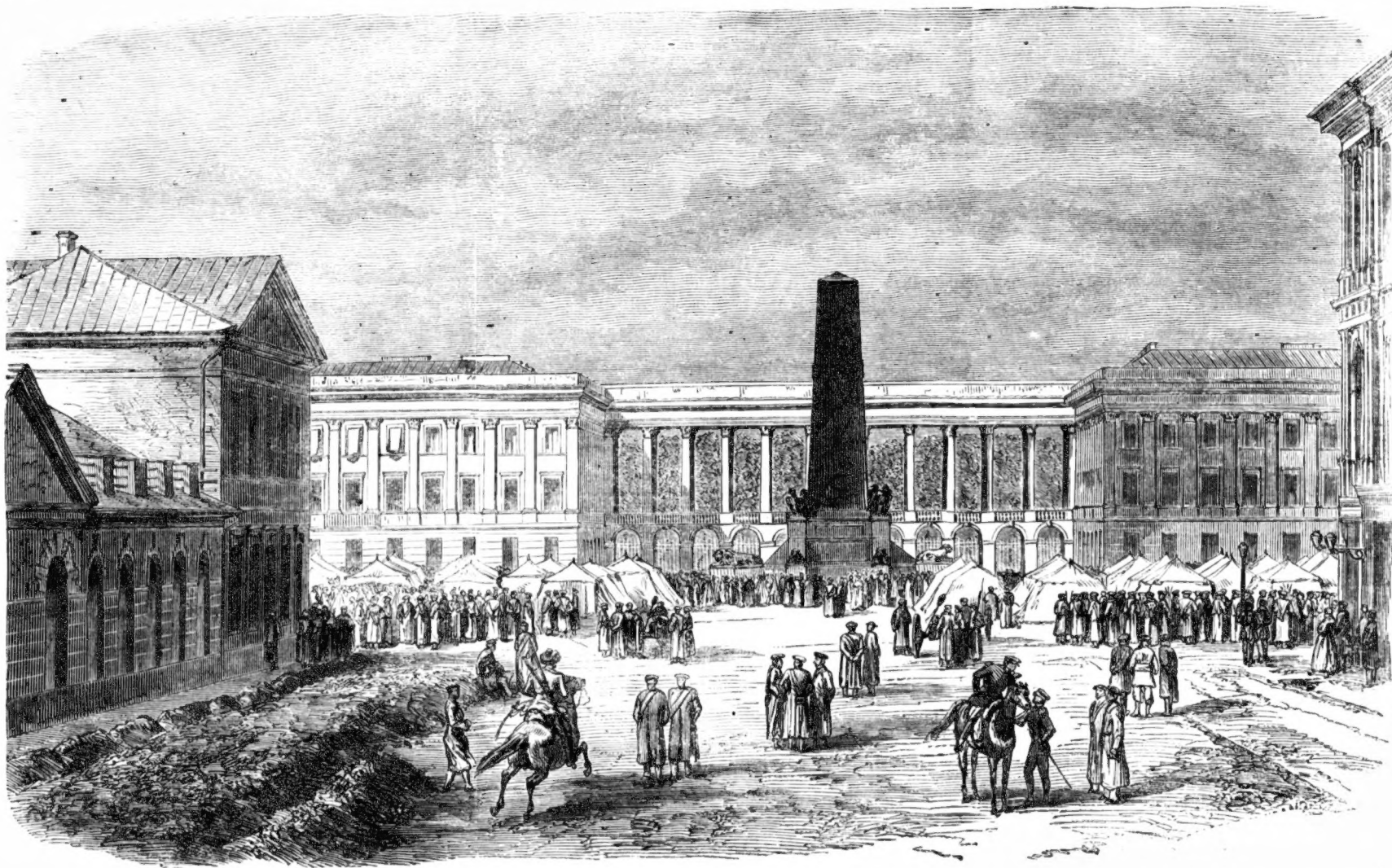
In anticipation of the arrival of the great expedition, the rebels had been engaged in erecting batteries upon a point at Hilton's Head, and opposite the neck of land. The principal fortification on Hilton's Head was designated Fort Walker. It is situated on low land, and partially concealed by trees and underbrush. Adjoining it were other batteries of smaller size, but so connected as to prove a formidable bar to the entrance of vessels. Fort Beauregard was of considerable importance, having been mounted with heavy guns. The garrisons are believed to have been South Carolina regiments, with several additional regiments sent from Richmond. The batteries at Bay Point, opposite Hilton's Head, were equally formidable. Inside Port Royal entrance, behind the batteries, lay the fleet of Commodore Tatnall, consisting only of small vessels, carrying a few heavy guns, but principally light ones. Tugs constituted a great portion of the fleet. Many of these remained outside the mouth of the entrance until the arrival of our fleet, when they formed in miniature line of battle behind the guns of their own forts and across the entrance on the morning of Thursday. On Tuesday the United States' fleet of forty-two vessels, headed by the flag-ship, approached the mouth of Port Royal. Several transports remained off the coast. The approach of the fleet created a great stir in the batteries. Arriving at a suitable position, the guns of the fleet opened a continuous fire on Forts Walker and Beauregard, as well as those upon a point. Under cover of this fire an effort was made to run the gauntlet of the batteries. The result was eminently satisfactory. A number of vessels passed through the shot and shell from the shore batteries with very trifling injuries. At last fifteen succeeded in passing up beyond reach of the land batteries. As the Union fleet sailed up, the mosquito fleet of Tatnall opened fire, but, seeing the impossibility of resistance, soon dispersed. Some were forced to run on shore, while others were driven up inlet, until almost out of sight. Commodore Tatnall went on shore with his men to assist in working the batteries and directing them against other vessels of the Union fleet which were endeavouring to follow the advance force. One of the Union gun-boats was believed to be burnt, and three disabled. It is acknowledged by the enemy that they had twenty men killed in Fort Walker; but it is impossible to state their loss at the other batteries. The passage of the vessels through the channel was not accomplished until the firing had continued from half-past nine in the morning till nearly five in the afternoon. No sooner did our vessels pass the batteries of Port Royal entrance, and glide into the broad river, than they made for the mouth of the inlets leading to Beaufort, Savannah, and Charleston. These were immediately blockaded, though not in time to prevent the escape of some small rebel vessels. Not one Federal vessel was sunk, and only one gun-boat burnt. The crew are said to have passed through a murderous fire to another vessel with little if any loss. The Union vessels acted under special instructions in at once blockading the inlets leading to two important points. While a portion of the fleet did this, four ships made for Beaufort, and at three o'clock on Thursday these vessels were in sight of the town.

Port Royal is situated about fifty miles below Charleston, and the name was given to the inlet by the French Huguenots in 1562, when they sought to make a settlement in that part of the world, and "Carolina" is from Charles IX., of St. Bartholomew memory. Beaufort is a beautiful little town in South Carolina, on Port Royal Island, and is a Southern watering-place, where the wealthy planters live in the hot season, dwelling



"Strange feelings," our artist writes, "arose in my mind whilst I traced the portraits of these men, who, but a short while ago, had spread terror through the wide region of the Lebanon. There they sat, re-trained, but not subdued. How long (thought I) will these proud exiles of the Asiatic mountains be suffered to pursue their sanguinary career? They have begun to complain of the rigour of the Servian climate, and they wrap themselves closely in the ample folds of their burnouses, which are fantastically ornamented with black braiding or embroidery. Their abode in the gloomy casemates, the cold of the approaching winter, and the longing for their homes and families, must inevitably work a change in them. It may be long ere they again behold the spreading tops of their beloved cedars; still they live in hope that the Widdia Gate will one day open for them. It leads eastward, and Medenah are their guards. Allah is great! and who can tell what may happen?"





ENCAMPMENT OF RUSSIAN TROOPS—SAXONY-SQUARE, WARSAW.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY KARAL BEYER.)

**THE RUSSIAN TROOPS IN THE SAXE-SQUARE,  
WARSAW.**

Our readers are already acquainted with the state of affairs in Warsaw, and it would appear that little change has taken place

since the occurrences in October. The whole kingdom continues in a state of siege, while the capital and all the towns of any importance are subject to strict military occupation. Troops are still encamped in the public places, while artillery is pointed towards the

entrances of the larger streets, at the same time commanding the crossways. Our Engraving represents the great Saxe-square in Warsaw as it appeared immediately after the declaration of the siege. In the background is the Saxe Garden, separated from the



DRUSE CHIEFS IN THE FORTESS OF BELGRADE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY F. KANITZ.)



square by arcades, surmounted by a colonnade; and the whole space included between the two buildings on each side is occupied by tents, under which are already encamped several battalions, which remain there in spite of the rigour of the season.

The approaches to it are defended by artillery kept loaded, while patrols come and go in every direction. In the centre of the square there stands an obelisk erected by the Emperor Nicholas to the memory of those generals who were killed in the Polish insurrection of 1830. The names inscribed on the tablet, however, are little honoured by this Imperial recognition, since at least some amongst them fell victims to the opinion that the attempt of the revolutionists was futile and dangerous, and opposed the popular demonstration from other motives than a desire to act against their country in order to serve the interests of Russia.

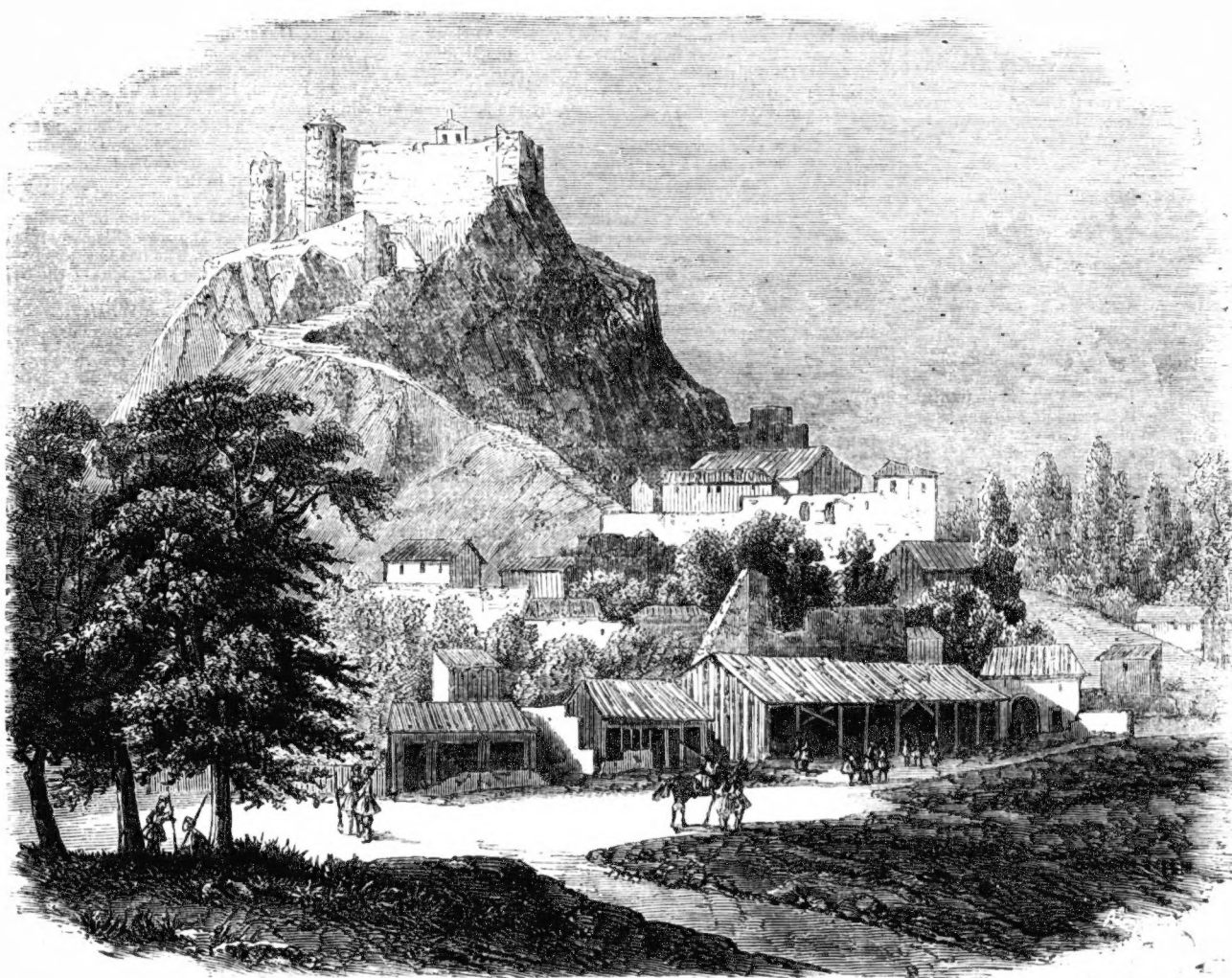
To the right of the colonnade stands the Palace of Grulib, where lies the body of General Gerstenweig, the Military Governor of Warsaw, who in the early part of the present month committed suicide in the most determined manner. It was he who gave the orders for the desecration of the churches on the night of the 15th and the morning of the 16th of October; and after only a few hours' interval he was found, having shot himself thrice in the head with a pistol. It may readily be believed that this tragedy has

already become a text for strange rumours, which speak of a vehement altercation between the late Military Governor and the Lieutenant of the Emperor, General Lambert, on the occasion of the violence committed in two of the churches.

At this interview, say the reports, such insults were exchanged that, a duel being impossible (in consequence of the political crisis, it may be supposed), the antagonists agreed to stake their lives on some such chance as a throw of the dice, the result of which was fatal to General Gerstenweig. Such is the story which obtains credit amongst the people of Warsaw, who seem to seize upon the details with avidity; while the precipitate departure of General Lambert at the end of October seems to justify the popular belief; and they say that General Lambert only delayed his departure till the desperate fate which hung over each of them fell upon his antagonist. Whatever may be the truth, however, it is remarkable that among the first victims of the siege of Warsaw were included the two men on whose authority it was commenced.

#### THE MONTENEGRINS.

At the south-western extremity of that vast territory inhabited by the Servian race, at some miles from the Adriatic, opposite Antivari and the mouths of the Cattaro, the Alps of Dalmatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, join the



FORTRESS OF JABLIAC, IN ALBANIA.



ALBANIAN POST AT JABLIAC, ON THE BANKS OF LAKE SCUTARI.—(FROM SKETCHES BY M. GELIS.)



Hellenic Alps and the Balkan chain in an irregular mass of great plateaux stretching one above another, interspersed with arid mountains and little valleys, whose waters, having no issue, serve to swell the lakes, the marshes, and the subterranean streams. In the midst of these a series of more open valleys form the basins of Zetta and Moraceta, which, reuniting near Podgoritz, are discharged into the Lake of Scutari. This territory, on account of its dreary and savage aspect, is called the "black mountain" in all the languages of the various tribes which surround it. The Servians call it Tsernagora, the Albanians Mal-Isis, the Turks Karadagh, and the "Latins" Montenegro.

The whole country, indeed, is wild and uncultivated, offering no other wealth than some fine forests and a few fields. Separated by the Adriatic from Dalmatia, and holding no other intercourse with the Turks than that of constant warfare, and the animosity attending it, the Montenegrins have retained a semi-barbarous position. The want of commercial relations with his neighbours has kept him in a state of comparative poverty, and the pillage of those whom he has been taught to regard as his natural enemies forms one of his recognised resources. The produce of the imports scarcely amounts to the annual income of an English nobleman, and the rulers of the country hold their court upon wooden benches in a capital formed of a hundred huts, and receive an annual revenue of about twenty pounds, the Prince adding to the sum which is appropriated to him the pension allowed him by Russia.

Whatever may be the poverty and apparent insignificance of the country, however, it is one of the most important military positions in the Hellenic peninsula, a sort of fortress situated in the midst of the Adriatic frontier, which, by its natural strength, has served as a refuge for those of the Servian race who have not yet succumbed to the Moslem rule. The Tsernoiewitch Princes of Zetta abandoned their rich possessions in the plains to find a home in the mountains; and Ivan, the most celebrated amongst them, founded in the centre of Montenegro the Convent of Cettingue, around which lie the cabins forming the capital.

The Turks found their claim to the territory upon the tribute which was exacted from the Montenegrins after their defeat by Solymán in 1623, on which occasion he pushed into the heart of their country; but since the eighteenth century they have ceased to recognise the Turkish demand, and declare their entire independence. It is also from that time that the title of Vladika has become hereditary in the Petrovitch family as the liberators of the principality. The Russian war against Austria and France in 1804 afforded the Vladika Peter an occasion for reasserting his independence of the Court of St. Petersburg; and during the French occupation of Dalmatia the Montenegrins were in amicable relation with the Empire.

Besides the influences which the Montenegrin Princes exercise over the neighbouring provinces, an influence sufficient to excite them to continual insurrection against their Turkish opponents, the warlike character of the people, who are all trained to arms, and the nature of the country, make their entire subjugation a matter of no little difficulty. The territory, too, is overlooked by numerous fortresses, of which the principal are Antivari, Lesendria, Jabliak, Podgoritz, and Spuss, on the south; and on the north Trebigne, Glubinie, Klobuck, Niksich, and Drobniak.

The latest news from this quarter is to the effect that after the defeat of the Montenegrins at Piva negotiations had been opened between the Prince of the Mountain and Omar Pacha, with a view to an arrangement of the existing differences.

#### FATHER LACORDAIRE.

THE death of this distinguished clerical orator took place last week at Sorèze (Tarn). His last moments were calm, but he could not speak. The following are a few particulars of his life:—

Father Henri Dominic Lacordaire was born on the 12th of May, 1802, in a village of Burgundy called Reuilly-sur-Ouche, department of the Côte d'Or. His father, who had obtained some reputation as a physician, died in 1806, leaving a widow and four sons, of whom Henri was the second. The mother was a fervent Catholic, and was scrupulous in bringing up her children in the same religious notions. She removed to Dijon on the death of her husband. Henri was placed in the Lycée of that town at the age of ten years, and it is related that even then he had some presentiment of his future fame as a Christian orator. The sermons of Borda were his favourite study. He quitted the Lycée in 1819, and, having studied law, came to Paris. On the 11th of May, 1821, he addressed a letter to one of his friends, intimating his intention of abandoning the Bar for the Church. He entered the College of St. Sulpice, and was ordained priest on the 25th of December, 1827. Towards the autumn of 1830, being then Chaplain of the College Henri Quatre, Lacordaire, in conjunction with M. de Montalembert and Lamennais, started the journal *L'Avenir*, with the mottoes "Dieu et la Liberté," "La Pape et le Peuple." This journal was a bold attempt to effect an alliance between democracy and religion, and it continued its course for some time in defiance of the French hierarchy. At length, however, the thunders of Rome were hurled at it, and the editors were summoned to the Eternal City to give an account of their teachings. Lamennais was obstinate, but Lacordaire submitted to the Pope.

In May, 1839, Lacordaire applied for permission to plead at the Bar, but was refused. His hand is traceable in the famous protest of the editors against the abuse of Ministerial power in dealing with the press (December, 1839), and in the next month he was tried at the assizes for some offence against Government, but acquitted, pleading his own cause with great eloquence. In 1831 he, M. de Montalembert, and M. de Oux opened what they called a free school, delivering lectures without a licence from the University. The Government, at the instance of the University, interposed, but they refused to budge. They were prosecuted before the Chamber of Peers (M. de Montalembert being a Peer and claiming that right), and were condemned to pay the minimum fine of 100 francs. The police came to close the school. "In the name of the law," says the commissary, "I order the boys to withdraw." "In the name of their parents, whose authority I have," replied Lacordaire, "I order them to stay." However, Lacordaire seemed frightened at last. He begged Lamennais to submit; he himself wanted to "cut" democracy and go on foreign missions, but M. de Quélén advised him to remain in France, and he continued to act as Chaplain "des couvents visitandines."

In 1834 Lacordaire's sermons at the College of St. Stanislas were censured by the Archbishop for their democratic character, and in 1835 his "Conferences at Notre Dame," at which he denounced on all subjects—nationality, liberty, Napoleon, railways, politics of all kinds—with great boldness and fervour, caused a prodigious excitement among the laity, and such a disquietude among the clergy that the Archbishop insisted on an alteration in his plans. At war with the Archbishop, he went to Rome in 1836, if possible to get support from the Holy See.

In 1838 he published a formal retraction of his liberal doctrines (in *L'Avenir*), and made war on "human intellect," as "the power which comes from the devil, and is irreconcilable with the faith which comes from God." But in Lent, 1838, his sermons attracted some unfavourable notice, and he went to Rome a third time in his justification. He now changed the whole course of his career; he entered the Convent of Minerva, and assumed (April 6, 1840) the Dominican habit. On the 15th of February, 1841, he occupied the pulpit of Notre Dame, habited in the white Dominican robe, and having his head shaved. His Lent "conferences" for the ensuing ten or eleven years in Paris, at Bordeaux, Nancy, Lyons, and Grenoble, were attended by enormous crowds. His eloquence has been the admiration not only of France but of all Europe.

In 1848, during the Republic, Lacordaire's early democratic doctrines appear to have revived. He was elected deputy for the Bouches du Rhône, and took his seat near Lamennais with the "Mountain" party, but he made little or no reputation by his speeches, and resigned May 15, alleging that "Parliamentary debates did not become the habit he wore." Latterly he has not appeared very prominently before the public, except when he was elected a member of the Institute, M. Guizot being selected to deliver the oration in favour of the new member, on which occasion the illustrious orator took his seat in the Dominican habit.

THE POPE AND THE POLES.—A letter has been published which the Pope addressed last June to the Archbishop of Warsaw, in which his Holiness repels warmly the charges made against the Holy See of being indifferent to the interests of Poland. He refers to the frequent remonstrances addressed from time to time by the Holy See to the Russian Government on behalf of the Catholics of Poland, and declares that he has himself written several letters to the Emperor Alexander to obtain the free exercise of the Catholic religion in Poland, but without effect.

#### CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS ON BOARD A BRITISH SHIP.

THE Royal mail steam-ship *La Plata* arrived at Southampton on Wednesday. She brings news that Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the Confederate Commissioners with their secretaries, were forcibly taken out of the Royal Mail Company's steamer *Trent*, whilst on her passage from Havannah to St. Thomas's, by the American war ship *San Jacinto*.

The steamer *Theodora*, with the commissioners on board, ran the blockade at Charleston on the 18th of October last.

Mr. Slidell was accompanied by his wife and their daughters. They left Havannah on board the *Trent* on the 7th inst. At noon on the 8th, as the *Trent* was approaching the narrow passage between the reefs opposite the Paragon Grand Lighthouse, Old Bahama Channel, a large war vessel was observed waiting ahead and showing no colours. On coming nearer the *Trent* hoisted her ensign, which met with no response from the war vessel.

When within about an eighth of a mile, the stranger, it is said, fired a round shot across the *Trent's* bows, at the same time hoisting the American flag. Immediately afterwards she fired a shell from a long pivot-gun on her fore-castle, which burst about a hundred yards to the leeward of the *Trent*.

Captain Moir, of the *Trent*, thereupon hailed the Captain of the other vessel, asking what he meant by stopping his ship. He replied that he wished to send a boat on board. At the same time one was lowered, containing two officers and ten men, and sent alongside the *Trent*. The officers boarded the *Trent*, and demanded her list of passengers, which was refused. Lieutenant Fairfax, the officer in command of the party from the war-steamers, which proved to be the *San Jacinto*, then said that Captain Wilks, his commander, had received reliable information that Messrs. Slidell, Mason, Eustis, and McFarland were on board the *Trent*, and demanded that they should be given up. This was most peremptorily refused, both by Captain Moir and Commander Williams, R.N., the naval agent in charge of her Majesty's mails, the former stoutly denying the right of the Federal vessel to take any person from under the English flag.

The commissioners were standing near, and boldly declared that they were all present, but, being on board a British ship, claimed the protection of the flag. The Lieutenant then said he would take charge of the steamer, and waved his hand to the *San Jacinto*, when three more boats were sent alongside, in which were thirty marines and about sixty sailors.

Commander Williams thereupon made the following protest:—

"In this ship I am the representative of her Majesty's Government, and I call upon the officers of the ship and passengers generally to mark my words, when, in the name of the British Government, and in distinct language, I denounce this as an illegal act—an act in violation of international law, an act, indeed, of wanton piracy, which, had we the means of defence, you would not dare to attempt."

The men in the boats then boarded, and came on the deck of the *Trent*, with bare cutlasses, and the commissioners were forthwith arrested, and forced into the boats. Mr. Slidell claimed the protection of the British Government, and said he hoped the case would be fully represented.

The Americans stated that they were short of provisions, and asked for a supply to maintain the prisoners. Captain Moir furnished them with supplies, but in so doing stated distinctly that they were for the exclusive use of the four gentlemen.

The American Lieutenant afterwards said his orders were to take Captain Moir and his papers on board the *San Jacinto*, and that the *Trent* was to be moved nearer. Captain Moir replied, "You will find me on my quarter-deck. If you want me you will have to come there for me," and immediately afterwards walked on deck.

The Lieutenant, however, called his men together and ordered them into the boats, finally telling Captain Moir he wanted nothing further. The boats then returned to the *San Jacinto*, and the *Trent* proceeded on her voyage. The despatches of the Commissioners did not fall into the hands of the Americans, but have arrived in England in the *La Plata*.

The indignation on board the *Trent* was so great that every person was willing to take part in the defence of the ship had an order been given. This was, however, out of the question in presence of such fearful odds.

The families of Mr. Slidell and of Mr. Eustis were urged by the first lieutenant of the *San Jacinto* to accompany them, but being informed, on inquiry, that it was probable they would be separated from them on their arrival at New York, they declined the offer, and have arrived in the *Plata*. On the arrival of the steamer in the dock the whole of the party went on board the *Nashville*, where they were received with every attention and kindness, and left for London by the three o'clock train. One of the gentlemen of the party has the despatches in his possession, which he, of course, keeps in close custody till his arrival in London.

Besides the mails and a large quantity of passengers, the *Trent* had a large amount of specie on board from Mexico for England, as well as a very valuable cargo of general merchandise.

It is stated by the friends of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, who have come home, that the lieutenant of the *San Jacinto* said this was the most painful act he had ever been called upon to perform, but he was compelled to do it, acting under orders.

The facts of the case are before the legal advisers of the Crown, and upon their decision as to the legality of the proceeding will depend the action of the Government.

The purser of the *Trent* has addressed a letter to the *Times*, in which, after giving a narrative of the occurrence, he says:—

If further proof were required of the meanness and cowardly bullying in the line of conduct pursued by the Captain of the *San Jacinto*, I may remark, first, that on being asked if they would have committed this outrage if we had been a man-of-war? they replied, "Certainly not;" and, secondly, that Captain Wilks sent an order for Captain Moir to go on board his ship, and a second for Captain Moir to move the *Trent* closer to the *San Jacinto*. Of course, not the slightest notice was taken of either order, nor did they attempt to enforce them.

Immediately on receipt of the news of this affair in Liverpool an indignation meeting was held, at which the following resolution was carried by acclamation:—

That this meeting, having heard with indignation that an American Federal ship of war has forcibly taken from a British mail steamer certain passengers who were proceeding peaceably under the shelter of our flag from one neutral port to another, earnestly call upon the Government to assert the dignity of the British flag.

The meeting was a very excited one, and it is said that another is to be called to consider the matter more calmly.

THE LATE ENROUTE OF THE WOOLWICH CADETS.—The decision of the Horse Guards on the insubordination shown by the Woolwich military cadets was promulgated on Friday week. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief pronounces the general tenor of the complaints made by the cadets to be frivolous, and their conduct in seeking redress ungentlemanly. The punishment assigned is the rustication of two of the leaders for a year and of eight others for six months.

WOULD-BE DESERTERS.—In consequence of the increasing number of persons fraudulently giving themselves up to the military authorities under the pretence that they are deserters, instructions have been issued from the Horse Guards that all parties so offending shall be prosecuted, under the provisions of the Mutiny Act. In accordance with this order, a man who gave the name of Francis Smith, alias Hartup, was last week charged before the magistrates at Rochester with having surrendered himself to the military authorities, under the false pretence that he was a deserter from the 2nd battalion of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The accused, it appeared, had on several previous occasions put the authorities to considerable trouble and expense by representing himself to be a deserter from various regiments. On one occasion he received food and lodging for the space of two months before his fraud was detected. He has also represented himself as a deserter from one of her Majesty's ships; but, after being detained, his statement was found in that case also to be untrue. The magistrates directed him to be imprisoned, with hard labour, for two months.

#### AMERICAN BELLIGERENTS IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been caused by the arrival at Southampton of the *Nashville*, a steamer which hoists the flag of the Confederate States of America, and is under the command of Captain Pegrim, late of the United States' Navy, and now carrying a commission from Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederate States. She came in for repairs, having suffered a good deal of bad weather since her departure from Charleston. She landed the captain and crew of a Federal vessel, the *Harvey Birch*, which she had captured and burnt to the water's edge. The ill-fated prize only left Havre on Saturday week, and was bound for New York. Her capture naturally excited some commotion at Lloyd's, and led to a rise in the rates of insurance. The *Nashville* had on board Colonel Peyton, a Southern Commissioner, who has business in London.

The following statement of the circumstances attending the capture and destruction of the *Harvey Birch* has been made by her commander, Captain W. H. Nelson:—

The American ship *Harvey Birch*, Captain W. H. Nelson, of New York, left Havre on Saturday, the 16th inst., bound to New York, in ballast. When in lat. 49.6 N. and long. 9.52 W., was brought to by the Confederate steamer *Nashville*, Commander Pegrim, late of the United States' Navy. The *Harvey Birch* was immediately boarded by the officers and crew of the *Nashville*, and were at once ordered on board the Confederate steamer, allowing Captain Nelson and crew to take a few of their effects and some fresh provisions. The *Harvey Birch* was then ordered to be fired by Captain Pegrim, who remained alongside until she was burnt to the water's edge. Captain Nelson further stated that Commander Pegrim informed him that he held no commission from the Confederate Government of America as a war steamer (a letter of marque); further, that himself and two mates were treated exceedingly well whilst on board the steamer, but that his crew were all placed in irons immediately. Captain Nelson stated that the *Nashville* shipped her crew in Charleston, which is composed chiefly of English and Irish lads; that they were shipped under false pretences, and forced to sign other articles when on board; and that Commander Pegrim endeavoured to compel himself and crew to take an oath of allegiance, and not to take up arms against the Southern States. The captain of the *Harvey Birch*, immediately on his landing in the docks, placed himself under the protection of Captain Britton, the American Consul at Southampton.

Captain Pegrim indignantly denies the statement of Captain Nelson that he holds no commission from the Confederate States of America, and has furnished for publication copies of his commission, bearing the signature and seal of President Davis and of the Secretary of the Confederate Navy.

Captain Pegrim gives the following as his version of the affair:—

On the morning of the 19th instant, at eight a.m., I sighted the packet-ship *Harvey Birch*, of New York. Immediately bore down upon her, and when near enough hailed her, having unlimbered guns and cleared decks for action. Then spoke the vessel, and ordered the captain to haul down his colours and bring his papers on board. The stars and stripes immediately went down slowly, and Captain Nelson and his officers came on board the *Nashville*. Captain Pegrim then informed him that he demanded an unconditional surrender, but all private effects would be respected. The crew were then brought on board, and, with the exception of Captain Nelson, his two mates, and a passenger, placed in irons. The captain and mates were allowed to retain their revolvers, but put upon parole. A few provisions were then brought on board, and the *Harvey Birch* committed to the flames. Before the *Nashville* left her the three masts were seen to fall, and the entire vessel was enveloped in a burning mass.

The following particulars of the *Nashville's* voyage have been furnished by the officers in command:—

The *Nashville*, Captain Pegrim, left Charleston on the night of Oct. 23 at eleven o'clock, passing over the bar at twelve. When she started the weather was thick and cloudy, but just as she was crossing the bar the weather cleared up, and the moon rose brightly, lighting up in full view to the eastward, distant about four miles, two steamers of the blockading squadron—one, the United States' steam-frigate *Susquehanna*, of twelve guns; the other a powerful propeller gun-boat. The *Nashville*, being under the land, and from the moon, was not seen by them. She then encountered strong north-easterly winds and very heavy seas, but made the passage to Bermuda in three days and a half. On arriving at Bermuda she received a pilot on board, who took the vessel to the dockyard, stating that, in consequence of her length, she could not go into St. George's. The next day Captain Pegrim, not being satisfied, obtained a second pilot from the dockyard, who took the *Nashville* safely round into St. George's, at which place the vessel coaled. During their stay at Bermuda the commander and officers were treated with the greatest hospitality and kindness, and every facility for getting stores, coals, &c., was afforded them by the inhabitants. A few days prior to the arrival at Bermuda of the *Nashville*, the United States' steamer *Connecticut* had called at the island for the purpose of ascertaining if the *Nashville* had been there. She had a crew of 100 men with six guns mounted. Not hearing anything of the steamer they were in search of, they again proceeded to sea without stating their destination. The *Nashville* sailed again from Bermuda on the 5th inst., and from the next day until the 17th she experienced a succession of gales from all points of the compass. Nothing of interest further transpired until the 19th, when she destroyed the United States' ship *Harvey Birch*.

Colonel Peyton says that there are 750,000 bales of cotton of the old crop, and over 4,000,000 bales of the new crop, and 50,000,000 lbs. worth of tobacco and naval stores ready for shipment. Colonel Peyton says that Messrs. Mason and Slidell, the Southern Commissioners, left Charleston on the 12th of October, in the steamer *Theodora*, passing through the blockading squadron at night. Their safe arrival was reported at Cardenas, Cuba, before the *Nashville* left Charleston on the 26th ult.

An application has been made by Captain Nelson to the borough magistrates of Southampton for a warrant to search the *Nashville* for property taken from the *Harvey Birch*. The application was refused, and Captain Nelson referred to the Secretary of State. A letter from Mr. Layard states that Earl Russell cannot interfere in the matter.

The *Nashville* has been placed in a berth in the tidal dock for repair, considerable damage having been sustained in the course of the voyage. The importance of this affair is superseded by the much more important transactions on board the *Trent*, the details of which will be found elsewhere.

MILITARY OUTRAGE IN VENETIA.—An outrage by officers of the ex-Duke of Modena is thus described by a letter from Venetia of the 20th ult.:—"On the evening of the 17th of October, in the town of Crepano, in the province of Treviso, Signor Giovanni Rossi, the father of three children, and a most respectable person, happened to be in a café in company with some friends and guests. In the same room were seated the officers of the first battalion of Grenadiers in the service of the ex-Duke, all enjoying the music of the band of the same regiment that was playing in the square. Rossi and his friends went away from the café, but without uttering one word that could give occasion for offence or altercation. The officers had, however, recognised in Rossi one of the defenders of his country in 1848, and chose to attach an intention of making a political demonstration in his leaving the café with his friends. They followed him, overtook him, and dragged him behind the church contiguous to the café, ordering their troops, who were listening to the band, to follow his friends and prevent a rescue. The Major, Cigolini, accosted Rossi with these words: 'It is time to put an end to these demonstrations,' and drew his sword and dealt him a blow on his head which prostrated him half dead. One of the Lieutenants and the Marquis Malaspina, not content with such infamous conduct, following the example of their superior officer, kicked the prostrate man. The post that has just come in has brought the news that poor Rossi is dying, and has sent for his children that he may give them his blessing from his deathbed. The despair of his poor wife can be better imagined than described."

FRENCH EXHIBITION IN 1863.—An exhibition is appointed in France for 1863, in which every attempt will be made to outstrip all that may have been done in this way previous to that time. Sir Joseph Paxton, it is said, has been retained by the Imperial Government; and a crystal edifice of unheard-of proportions will rise on an elevated site near St. Cloud. A dome, 500 feet high, and of span capacious enough to include both those in course of erection in South Kensington, will crown Sir Joseph's new design. A complete plan of this palace will, we are informed, be sent over to the International Exhibition, and an ample portion of space will be accorded to every country without application.

THE LONDON BANK OF DEPOSIT.—The London Bank of Deposit, which was conducted by "Peter Morrison, managing director," as an extensively-circulated advertisement informed the public, lately disclosed business, and a report which has just been issued as to its affairs discloses an extraordinary amount of recklessness, if not of fraud. There is a deficiency of £300,500, while the assets, according to the most liberal estimate, will not exceed £26,000. It is doubtful whether the depositors will realise 2s. in the pound on the amount they have intrusted to this windbag concern.



Literature.

*Lovel the Widower.* By W. M. THACKERAY. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. Thackeray's last story reminds us of the extreme falseness of an everyday saying; nay, almost convinces us of the falseness of human nature itself, in being so constantly the very reverse of that which it professes itself to be. The writer of "Lovel the Widower" writes very much as if he were Mr. Thackeray (that is, we fancy the idiosyncrasy may be detected through the mask of drama). He, in a piece of raving common-sense, ventures to defend the memory of Richard III. for the (Pinnock-supposed) murder of the two little Princes in the Tower, on the ground that they were possibly a pair of juvenile nuisances, like his own wonderful little creations, Master Popham and Miss Cissy, whom his own Mrs. Batchelor would gladly consign to Bogeys for evermore. But this is affectation. It is impossible not to see that Mr. Thackeray likes children; for he has studied them, and understands them. And his morning half-dozen whiffs from a cigarette, and his crow over the perplexity of poor Mr. Biddlecombe and the baby overhead, are true only to the assumed character of the furious single gentleman. The man who sticks a cigar into his after-breakfast mouth, and assures you that "all the women are alike," knows much better. He is no such fool, although he has been fooled. That verdict—that white lie—that ungentlemanlike perjury—that wicked libel upon all that is lovely—is simply the result of a "row" that took place, perhaps, ten years since. Our friend knows he is wrong. He cannot be ignorant of the infinite variety of lovely woman; or might not the heart crushed by the perfidy of Amarantha soften and swell into perfect rapture a whole long life through at the melting sweetness of Sacharina? Women differ, like dogs and men's difficulties. Bouncers (as Mr. Batchelor calls them) abound in society; and amongst them is to be found one closely affecting Mr. Batchelor himself. The people who so constantly say, "I never read Thackeray now; he is the same thing over again," know better, or ought to know. True, there is a certain family likeness in his books, just as any two human beings are alike; but the distinctions are broadly and deeply marked. If we look at Mr. Thackeray's labours for the last quarter of a century we are absolutely astonished at the infinite richness of his resources, at his astonishing range of character and combination. He commenced, almost from the first, with a professed embittered distrust of the heart upon a man's sleeve, a sacred confidence in life not being a bed of roses, and in a passionate knowledge of scoundrels—for which (with the exception of Fielding's Jonathan Wild) we have no comparison in the English language. He has set his machine going in all countries, under all colours. He photographs all India in a flash—in a sentence, just as Mr. Browning describes the dead wife's portrait in the wall-paper:—

Three lines, the face comes at so slight a call.

We know what a "Collector" was, fifty years ago, when we are told that his bungalow was ornamented with a print of "H.M.S. Ranebender in a Typhoon." Of course he can but know India, when his repose was invaded by the invention of such a place as "Jaggerbedam." He is the man who thought the heavens would be translated to earth "if the flounder had two backs;" who invented footmen, who discovered the Irish, who never mentions the Scotch, who is almost a universalist, but not quite, for he never attempted to handle a sailor—the man of marvellous, affectionate reputation, who will eternally persist that people deride him and run him down. In "Lovel the Widower," and in the "Roundabout Papers," Mr. Thackeray insists upon that; and, despite his pertinacity, we believe that he does not believe it; but he finds a change and relief in talking about himself, which is usually an interesting topic for any Monsieur or Madame with whom the public are pleased to deal. He cannot suppose that people are going to forget his Trux, his Becky, his Ethel, his Amelia (who is Fielding's), or anything that is his. His Stubbs or his Viscount de Rooster, his Barry Lyndon, or his Edmund, his Samuel Titmarsh, or Arthur Pendennis, or any of the totally opposite creations, or the delicate ranges of shade which go to make up the brilliant series of fiction, from the "Catherine a Story," in *Truxer* (which he has perhaps forgotten) to "The Adventures of Philip," which he is now writing in the *Cornhill*. He is always feeling and denying it; but the plain fact is, that Mr. Thackeray affects not to believe in the goodness of human nature, and he complains that society finds his virtuous heroines "so insipid." Given, one of the most brilliant delineators of life and character that the world has ever seen; result, an ungrateful public. Nobody is thankful for anything; and the better the dinner the more fool you think the host, and the more you hate him. It is only necessary to take a man out of prison to insure having your throat cut, and so forth. This dismal philosophy leads to the misanthropy expressed in a maxim we know, "When you see a drowning man throw a stone at him;" all becomes misery and desolation, and instead of Swift's "dying" it is living "in a rage, like a rat in a hole." This philosophy, which we no more seriously believe of Mr. Thackeray than we believe in the misogyny of our wretched friend who says that all women are alike, is wonderfully laid down in "Lovel the Widower," page 85, last line. The writer says, "I had not only been kind to him, but he was grateful." Can the writer of such a sentiment hope to be believed? If he can believe it himself he must surely be the unhappiest of men, the prey of swindlers and filches before he was five-and-twenty, and be able to say in the fascinating distemper of Percy Bysshe Shelley:—

Alas! I have nor hope nor health,  
Nor peace within nor calm around;  
Nor that Content, surpassing wealth,  
The sage in meditation found,  
And walked with inward glory crowned.  
Nor Fame, nor Peace, nor Love, nor Leisure;  
Others I see whom these surround;  
Smiling they live and call Life Pleasure;  
To me that cup has been dealt in another measure.

It will be observed that we have taken advantage of "Lovel the Widower" to talk about Mr. Thackeray himself rather than about our mutual friend, Mr. Batchelor. Throughout, and especially in the earlier portion, the story especially asks for this kind of commentary, and sets out from the first chapter and the first engravings with the assertion that we are all "muffs." And, moreover, from its insertion in the first six numbers of the *Cornhill Magazine* the story must be tolerably familiar to most readers, and is, indeed, better susceptible of description than of elaborate criticism. Here it is in an elegant and compact form, to adorn many Christmas tables, and to take an honoured place on many a permanent shelf. We say that, as far as the story goes, nothing could be better, which is what we can generally say of the author, from his humblest little ballad to his most deeply-laid work of fiction. It is, in its way, as original as anything he has done, and if the ill-natured will insist that it is but a tissue of meannesses and swindles, and that meannesses and swindles adorn every picture of life from the same workman, we will insist more strongly that there are newer meannesses, fresher swindles, and in a profusion more plentiful than we thought the market capable of absorbing. No grand collection was never before made. There is absolutely not a single woman or girl; and, with the exception of Lovel, who is a fool, and the butler, who was grateful, not a man or a boy whose society we could tolerate for one moment. The story is a "row" from first page to last, and everywhere we see the writer crowing over the miseries, bickerings, and heartburnings of the shameless crew which he has shipped on board his little vessel. It is a fine picture of cynicism and misanthropy; but, as we have endeavoured to explain, it contains not a scrap of autobiographic truth.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

LORD STANLEY AT KING'S LYNN.

THE most important speech delivered within the past eight days has been that of Lord Stanley to his constituents at King's Lynn. His Lordship spoke for upwards of an hour, and delivered, perhaps, the ablest speech he has ever made. Naturally, the largest portion of the noble Lord's address was taken up with foreign affairs; but on one or two home topics of interest his remarks are of importance. On the subject of church rates he intimated his intention of following the course he has hitherto pursued—that of voting for their abolition in the interest of the Church itself, and said he saw no danger to the Establishment from any outside influence so long as she is true to her great mission. Parliamentary Reform he considered a thing inevitable at some period or other, as the desire for improvement in our legislative machinery was a thing that could never die, but thought the question would not again be seriously stirred for two or three years. The system of purchase in the Army he characterised as "detestable," and maintained that our military affairs would never be in an efficient condition till a thorough change in this respect was made. He generally approved our present system of financial and commercial policy, while reserving the right to deal with points of detail as seemed most advisable. On the subject of reaction towards Conservatism he said:—"We have all of us heard a great deal in the last few months of what is called a Conservative reaction. Now, the thing is real enough, but the phrase is not strictly accurate. Reaction in this country there is not, and I believe there never will be. It is our nature to make changes slowly, but when we have made them all parties agree to abide by them. There is no measure which has passed in the last thirty years which, so far as I know and believe, any considerable party in this country would now propose to repeal; therefore I say, in the strict sense of the word, reaction there is none. But of Conservative feeling and contentment as to that which we have, and of objection to any changes that may be proposed, there is undoubtedly more than at any time within my recollection. I do not believe this has anything to do with the accidents of political combinations or the working of Parliamentary parties. I believe it would be precisely the same if every politician and Minister now living were swept from the face of the earth, and if a House of Commons were returned composed entirely of new men. It is the business of politicians simply to recognise this state of things; it is of no use to cavil at it, and no use to ignore it. We have to consider what is best that can be made out of it, and the conclusion which I draw is, that organic changes are out of season, and the very fact that they are out of season proves that the present time—as times of quiet generally are—is especially favourable for the carrying out of administrative reforms." Turning to foreign politics, Lord Stanley, referring to the state of Italy, said the unification of that country, instead of being completed, was only just begun, and had many and serious difficulties still to encounter. As to the policy of Louis Napoleon in engaging in the Italian war, the noble Lord remarked:—"When first the Emperor of the French entered Italy one might very reasonably doubt whether he had any fixed or definite policy, although his personal motives were sufficiently obvious. To recall the memory of his uncle's early campaigns, to replace the influence of Austria by that of France, to occupy the mind of the French people, and to gratify them with a spectacle in which they greatly delight—that of their own military ascendancy—were quite sufficient reasons for the policy which he pursued. Again, he has acquired the confidence of his army, which never looks with perfect deference to a chief who has not commanded in actual war; and he has exhibited the spectacle—which even to those who are no great admirers of military glory in general is somewhat remarkable—of a Commander-in-Chief, who at the age of fifty had never heard a shot fired in earnest, taking the command of an army, and winning two great and decisive victories against distinguished and experienced Generals. He has humbled a second great European Power, Russia being the first, and he has restored to France a portion of the territory which, spared by the arrangement of 1814, was taken away by the defeat of Waterloo." As to the dispute between Austria and Hungary, his Lordship thought the people of this country could not have any very decided leaning to either side. Our own experience of separate legislative functions in one part of the empire from those of the others had not been such as to warrant us in approving entirely of the claims of the Hungarians; but, on the other hand, we could not applaud the policy of the Austrian Government, for "nothing could have been more suicidal than the folly of the Austrian authorities, and nothing could be more natural than the distrust which their past conduct has inspired of their present professions. It is impossible to deny that, whatever may be the misfortunes which befall the Austrian Government, those misfortunes will have been in a great measure brought on by its own conduct, and all that we can do is to watch, although we may watch with regret, a calamity which it may be in no man's power to avoid. But for my own part I must say—not at all admiring Austrian institutions or government—that I should regret such a disruption on general grounds. I should regret it because I believe that whatever tends to break up great empires into small and feeble states removes one obstacle out of the way of any ruler who at some future time may be disposed to play the part of a conqueror; and I am afraid that the experience we have had during the last few years shows that the days of military aggression and conquest are not so entirely gone by as it was the fashion some time ago to suppose." Turning to the United States, Lord Stanley did justice to the motives which impelled the Federal Government, supported by the Northern States, to embark in the contest. He was, however, inclined to think that the South would succeed in forming an independent State, and that in the North the abolition party were far from being in the ascendant. His Lordship made some judicious remarks on the duty of this country to observe a strict neutrality, and to abstain from taking any undue advantage of the temporary weakness of the American power.

MR. LAYARD IN SOUTHWARK.

The Under Secretary for War (Mr. Layard) has also appeared before his constituents in Southwark. The hon. gentleman justified the course the Government and country had pursued with reference to the conflict in America, adding, however, that "while we proclaim the principle of non-intervention we are resolved to make the rights of Englishmen respected throughout the world, and to resent outrages on the persons of English subjects." On the subject of Reform, he remarked that the people had themselves to blame for not having had a Reform Bill passed long ere this time. They had not supported the Government bill, and therefore the Cabinet were entitled to assume that Parliamentary Reform was not in favour with the people, and that an unwelcome measure should not be pressed upon them. Mr. Layard likewise vindicated his own acceptance of office, and said that public men in serving their country rarely advanced their own personal interests. "All those snug sinecures and profitable jobs which were formerly regarded as the sweets of office are, happily for us, no longer in existence. Indeed, instead of a man making money by taking office, the probability is that he will leave office poorer than when he entered it."

MR. GLADSTONE ON MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer addressed a public meeting in Oxford on the advantages of a scheme that has lately been propounded for the establishment of public schools for the children of the middle classes. The meeting was held in the Sheldonian Theatre. The right hon. gentleman enforced the subject from a great many points of view, and with his usual redundant eloquence; and in the end resolutions in support of the project were unanimously agreed to.

MR. BERESFORD HOPE ON AMERICA.

Mr. Beresford Hope last week delivered a lecture on American affairs, in which he entirely took the side of the Southerners. He said:—"We cannot help seeing that the North, with all its civilisation, is the hotbed of anarchy, and that the South, in spite of the dark blot which stains its escutcheon, is fighting with one heart and mind for its independence from a hateful thralldom; and that, while Abraham Lincoln is an incapable pretender, Jefferson Davis is a bold, a daring, yet politic statesman. We may wish to see the American States peacefully separate into the great division marked out by nature—we may wish to see bloodshed cease, and peace restored—but I contend, and I know the majority of thinking men in this country agree with me, though they are too mealy-mouthed to say so, that the best and readiest method towards that end would be the establishment, as soon as possible, of the complete independence of the Confederate States."

MESSRS. MILLS AND BENTINCK AT TAUNTON.

The magistrates of Taunton have entertained the members, Mr. Arthur Mills and Mr. Cavendish Bentinck, to dinner. The affair was not a political one, but there was licence enough to allow both hon. gentlemen to comment on passing events. Mr. Mills defended the House of Commons from the aspersions of indolence which too many members have of late brought against it, and pointed out that the great thing wanted was not activity so much as a good aim to which their activity should be directed. Mr. Cavendish Bentinck pointed to the fusion that was now going on among parties in consequence of Conservative feeling and principle permeating the ranks of their opponents. He warmly defended Lord Malmesbury's foreign policy from the charge of his being in league with despots, and said that all the present Ministry had done was to walk in his footsteps.

THE MEMBERS FOR BERKE ON AFFAIR IN GENERAL.

The Hon. P. P. Bouvier, M.P., and Mr. Walter, M.P., have addressed an agricultural dinner party in Berkshire, the staple of their speeches being of course politics. The Hon. P. P. Bouvier said that nowadays there was very little difference in politics. A few years ago it used to be "measures, not men;" but now, he thought, they might reverse that, and say it was "men, not measures," for the political world was fighting

whether it would have Lord Palmerston or Lord Derby. This seemed to him to be the only great difference. He was a supporter of the present Government, and had a preference for Lord Palmerston. The country and the House of Commons had shown that there was no inclination towards Reform. His wish in the way of Reform was not for such constitutional changes as took place thirty years ago; but the progress society had made since then required that a large proportion of those who were competent to give their votes should have the power of doing so. He was not for the ballot. For his part, he would prefer representing those who gave an independent vote. At the same time, there was nobody who detested more than he did intimidation, or the attempt to make voters vote contrary to their opinions. Mr. Walter confined himself more legitimately to topics suitable to the nature of the meeting, and impressed upon his hearers the importance of allowing the existence of small birds, and detailed many instances, culled from foreign as well as domestic fields, where the sparrow and other small members of the feathered tribes had rendered good service to the farmer.

THE HOP DUTIES.

A meeting of landowners, planters, and others interested in the hop trade, was held at Robertsbridge, near Hastings, last week, at which it was resolved to take steps for obtaining a repeal of the hop duties during the next Session of Parliament. Lord Harry Vane, M.P., occupied the chair, and the principal speakers were Mr. Dodson, M.P.; Mr. H. Collis; Mr. Frewen, M.P.; and Mr. Beresford Hope. The meeting was numerously attended by landowners and hop-planters of Kent and Sussex.

REFORM MEETINGS.

Meetings to promote Parliamentary Reform have been held at Bradford and at Mangotsfield. The Bradford meeting was called by the Political Union to receive the report of the deputies who had attended the recent conference at Leeds; and the following resolution was agreed to:—"That this meeting, regarding a spirit of union among Reformers as indispensably necessary to success, rejoices at the marked manifestation of that spirit at the conference recently assembled in the borough of Leeds, and desires that the efforts about to be made to obtain a National Conference, with a view to an immediate national organisation, may receive the support of all who desire that the people be represented in the Commons House of Parliament." At Mangotsfield it was resolved to form a branch of the Bristol Reform Union, and to take measures to inaugurate a vigorous agitation for political progress and further extension of the franchise.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CARLISLE.—The nomination for this borough took place on Monday, when the show of hands was declared to be in favour of Mr. Potter. A poll was thereupon demanded on behalf of Mr. Hodgson. The polling took place on Tuesday, and resulted in the election of Mr. Potter by a majority of three, the numbers at four o'clock, when the books were closed, being—

Potter	526
Hodgson	523

Up to three o'clock Mr. Hodgson had a majority, but after that hour his opponent headed him, and maintained the lead till the close of the poll.

FINSBURY.—There are now two candidates positively in the field as candidates for the representation of Finsbury—namely, Mr. Campbell Sleigh, the barrister, and Mr. John Remington Mills, a merchant in the City, and not unknown to the public, having twice unsuccessfully contested Leeds. Mr. Mills is a native of the borough, and comes forward in compliance with a requisition from the electors. In his address he declares himself as in favour of reduction of expenditure, the ballot, abolition of church rates, and extension of the franchise to ten-pound householders in counties, and six-pounders in boroughs. He says he will support Lord Palmerston's Government, whose policy he generally approves. A great many other gentlemen have been named, but the two above named are as yet the only ones actually in the field.

EAST WORCESTER.—Mr. Vernon's address has been issued. He declares for non-intervention in the affairs of other countries, with a strong sympathy for liberty in its struggles against oppression; for an extended popular education; for a settlement of church rates "on a basis that is just;" for adherence to our recent commercial legislation, and for amendment in the administration of the law. No other candidate is talked of at present.

MR. BASS'S STATISTICS.—At a dinner given last week at Derby to Mr. Cox, ex-Mayor, Mr. Bass, M.P., published his usual statistics of Parliamentary oratory:—"Take the following results for 1860—Session, 1860, number of days, 115; 1861, 116; 1860, hours, 1244; 1861, 941; 1860, hours each sitting, 8.34; 1861, 7.56; 1860, hours after midnight, 1473; 1861, 93; 1860, counts-out, 0; 1861, 7; 1860, number of speeches, excluding Cabinet and other Ministers, 10,615; 1861, 8720. Average for 1861—Members, English, 10 each; Irish, 10; Scotch, 10. Metropolitan, 34. If all the members spoke as often as metropolitan members there would be an addition of 13,432 speeches. In 1860 nine members made more than 100 speeches each; in 1861 only three spoke more than 100 times; and it is curious that two out of the three centenarians assured me that the publication of my tables had a most salutary influence. The metropolitan speeches, exclusive of London and Middlesex, were much reduced last Session. In 1860 nine metropolitan members made 995 speeches; in 1861 the nine most frequent metropolitan speakers made but 514."

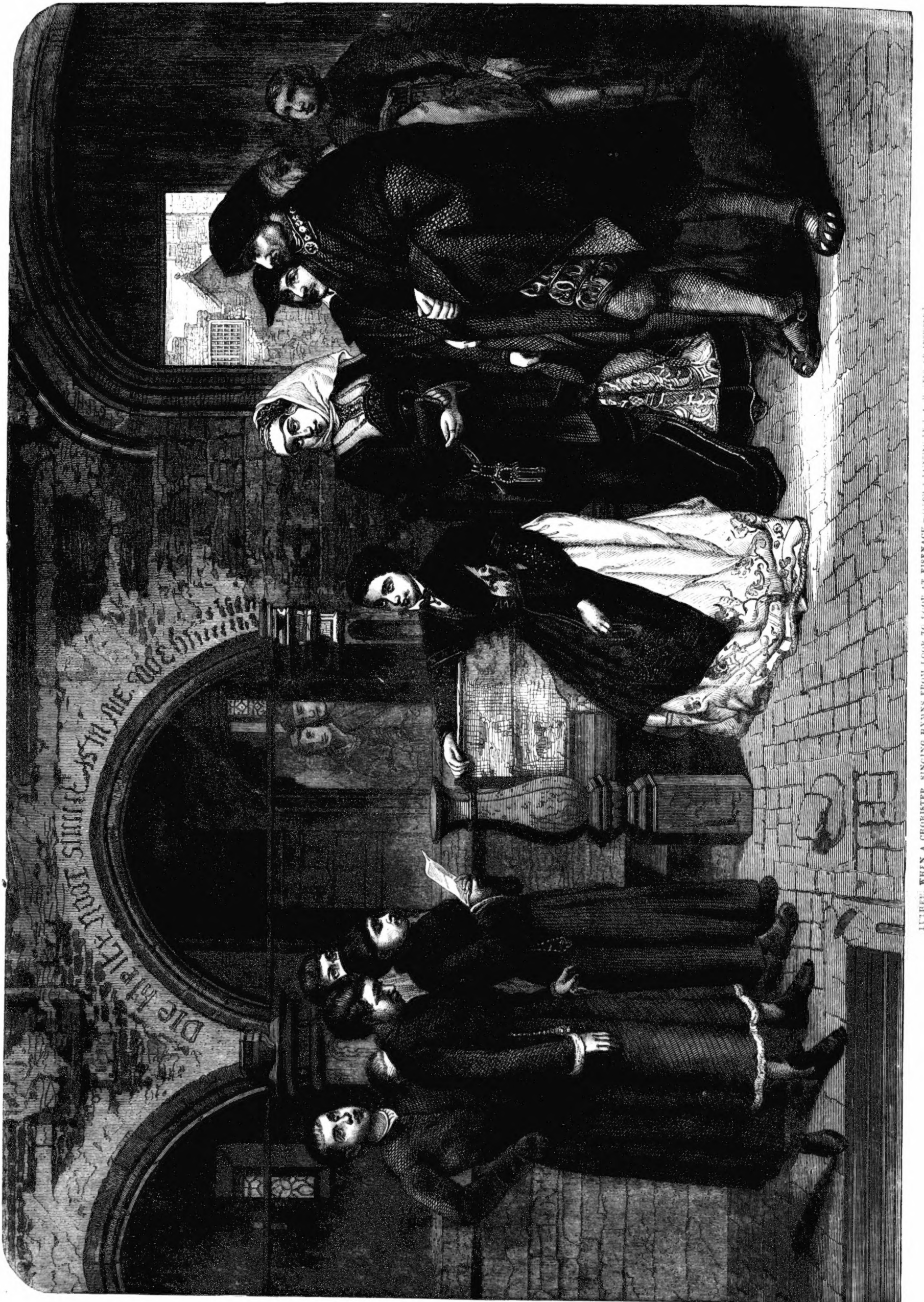
SAVING LIFE ON THE EAST COAST.—The National Life-boat Institution has during the present month paid £120 to the crews of some of its Norfolk and Suffolk life-boats for saving forty-eight persons from the following wrecks: Four men from the schooner *Fly*, of Whitby; ten men from the smack *Adventure*, of Harwich; four men from the brig *Lively*, of Clay, Norfolk; seven men from the pilot-cutter *Whim*; eleven men from the lugger *Saucy Lass*; and eleven men from the brig *Undaunted*, of Aberdeen.

LUTHER, WHEN A CHORISTER IN EISENACH, SINGING HYMNS FROM DOOR TO DOOR.

THE incident which forms the subject of this picture is of the date of the fifteenth century, at which period it was the custom in Germany for church and cathedral choristers to go from door to door singing for alms. The picture from which our illustration is copied represents a party of these singers who are going about chanting hymns for "Gottesbrod" (alms) at the doors of the pious burghers of Eisenach. The youngest stands in front of the group, his face and figure being seen in profile. He is singing with earnest devotion the first part in the hymn "Panem propter Deum." His eyes are riveted on the sheet of manuscript music which he holds with both hands, and he neither sees nor heeds the powerful impression he is making on his auditors. One of his companions, who stands next to him, also has his eyes fixed on the notes, whilst with his right hand he mechanically beats time. The third singer, who stands so that his full face is seen, has his eyes raised to heaven, and is apparently delivering his part in the hymn with much fervour, though it may be that his thoughts are more intent on earthly than on spiritual comfort. The fourth singer is only partially seen. The centre of the picture is occupied by the pleasing figure of a young girl. One of her arms rests on the back of the bench on which she is seated, whilst with the other hand she plays dreamily with the strings of her apron. A little behind stand her father and mother, the master and mistress of the house, who have come to their door to hear the singing. The wife is a fine type of matronly beauty; and the husband, a serious, dignified-looking man, wearing a velvet cloak and cap, listens devoutly and with an air of kindly sympathy to the singers. He is himself a father, and he feels for the necessitous condition of the poor youths. In the background there is a group of servants, and under the Gothic arch other figures are seen in half-light. But who among the listeners could have foretold that one of the voices which imparted so much effect to the sacred harmony would one day launch thunderbolts through Catholic Christendom, stir up long and sanguinary wars—in short, create the world of new ideas embodied in the principles of the Protestant faith? The young singer was Martin Luther, the future preacher of Wittenberg, and the great Reformer. There he stands, with a few of his poor companions, singing for alms. But has he not, in his own quaint manner, said, "You know the psalm tells us that Kings and Princes sang, so will I sing and praise the power of the Lord. I was poor; I sang for bread at the doors of the inhabitants of my dearly-beloved city of Eisenach. Despite not the wandering choristers who go from door to door singing 'Panem propter Deum.'"

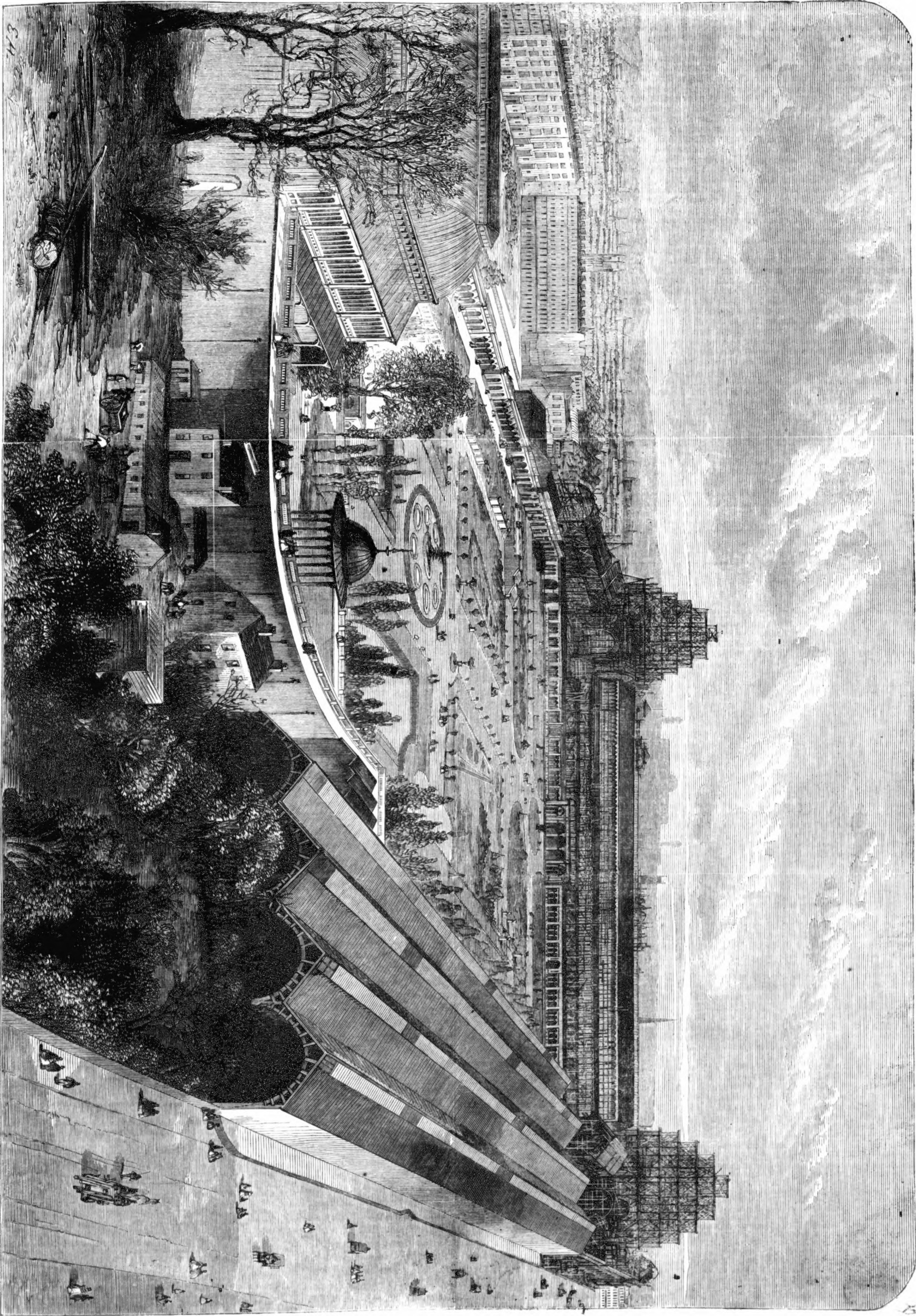
Our Engraving is executed from a photograph taken from this interesting picture, which has deservedly excited great admiration in Antwerp.





LUTHER, WHEN A CHORISTER, SINGING HYMNS FROM BOOK TO BOOK AT EISENACH.—(FROM A PICTURE BY J. A. J. VAN ANTONIUS.)





VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE BUILDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862 SHOWING ALSO THE GROUNDS OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



## THE EXHIBITION OF 1862.

THE whole framework of the building at South Kensington, with the exception of the ironwork of the domes and the adjoining parts, is now complete, and painters, glaziers, plasterers, and floorlayers are at work on all those portions which have been left by the erectors. Everything seems to be progressing well except the domes. The Thames Iron Company have done their utmost to facilitate the erection of these vast structures. To this end they are concentrating all their efforts on the eastern dome, while the building of the western has been intrusted to Mr. Ashton, who, under the contractors, has charge of the ironwork of the building,—the same duty that he so efficiently discharged in 1851 and at the erection of the Crystal Palace. Still, with all this additional aid, it seems to be almost a physical impossibility to complete these enormous domes by the 1st of January. When it is recollected that they are iron—of the most massive kind—in some parts most difficult to fix, and at all times more or less dependent on fine weather to enable the work to proceed, it seems like hoping against hope to expect that they will be ready even in the first week of January. By great exertions, and aided by a long spell of fine and mild weather, much may of course be done; but even under the most favourable circumstances they cannot possibly be ready by the day first appointed. It will be well, also, if the “annex” for machinery in motion is not equally backward. The arrangements for the latter, however, rest entirely with the commissioners themselves.

As each day develops the details connected with next year's exhibition it becomes more and more apparent that the fine-arts section of the display will be one of the grandest, most varied, and most interesting that the world has yet seen. For the first time in the history of art all the rarest and most valued masterpieces of modern art will be assembled under the roof. The inestimable works, the possession of which makes public galleries and great collections famous throughout the Continent, will all be together next year at South Kensington, marshalled according to the various epochs they represent with the most consummate skill and care. There is not now a single State or country in Europe, no matter what its size, which has not applied for and received space for the exhibition of works in this section. Even Russia has demanded and received a proportionate allotment of the picture galleries for the display of works belonging to the Russian school of painting, which as a distinct school of art is heard of now almost for the first time. It is said, however, that this Russian gallery will contain many fine, though all very large, works. When such preparations are made by all foreign countries in this great art contest, it is satisfactory to know that such wide-extended efforts are making in this country for the proper representation of the English school of art as must result in raising the fame of our painters throughout Europe even higher than it has stood before. All the national collections in England and Scotland will furnish important works by both living and deceased masters whenever it is found difficult to illustrate satisfactorily their merits and characteristics from other sources. The council of the Royal Academy, the trustees of the National Gallery and the National Gallery of Scotland, the Corporation of the city of London, the commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, the governors of the Foundling Hospital, and other public bodies, have offered a selection from the works of art under their control. From these sources the display next year will be enriched with the rarest and most striking examples of the works of Hogarth, Gainsborough, Sir Joshua, Northcote, Opie, Turner, and others.

The superb collection promised by her Majesty contains, of course, the masterpieces of modern English art. Among the most important is “The Mall,” by Hogarth. Of Reynolds there is the celebrated “Nymph and Cupid,” with portraits of the Duchess of Gloucester, the Marquis of Rockingham, and the Marquis of Hastings. Of Gainsborough's portraits there are two—those of Dr. Fisher and Hurd, Bishop of Worcester. Of Sir Benjamin West's we are to have “The Death of Wolfe,” “The Oath of Hannibal,” and “The Departure of Regulus.” There are to be three grand specimens of Sir Thomas Lawrence—the portraits of Pius VII., Eldon, and the Earl of Liverpool. Among the others are works by Copley, Allen, and Barclay, with Newton's “Duennas,” Collins's “Shrimpers,” with seven of the most important of Wilkie's, including “The Penny Wedding” and “Blind Man's Buff.” In addition to these and Leslie's great picture of “The Coronation of Her Majesty,” there are many others promised of less importance, with a splendid selection of the most important and popular pictures by living artists in the possession of the Queen. To the English section of the water-colour gallery her Majesty will also be one of the largest contributors. Among the other great works already selected by the commissioners are “The Fortune-tellers” and “Count Ugolino,” by Reynolds, from the collection of the Dowager Lady Amherst. From Mr. Birchall's gallery two magnificent Turners have been chosen, with Frost's picture of “Chastity,” and a most important selection of water colours. Sir William Miles will send Hogarth's “Shrimp Girl” and “Polly Peachum,” with Stothard's celebrated “Canterbury Pilgrimage.” The Duke of Newcastle promises Hogarth's great picture of “Southwark Fair;” the Marquis of Westminster, the finest English examples in the Grosvenor Gallery; and the Duchess of Norfolk, Leslie's picture of “Fairlop Fair.” Sir Robert Peel will send the best in his collection of Hogarth, Bonington, Wilkie, Collins, Mulready, and Lucy; the Duke of Sutherland his “World before the Flood,” and “Passage of the Red Sea,” by Etty and Danby; and Mr. Ashton, of Manchester, contributes the best in his possession of the works of Constable, Macleise, Elmore, Herbert, &c. Mr. Thomas Baring sends works by Hogarth, Bonington, Mulready, Unwins, Roberts, Stanfield, and Lewis; and Mr. Thomas Fairbairn promises examples of Ward, Unwins, Worthington, Egg, Hunt, &c.

Just now the commissioners are very busy respecting the surplus applicants for space, amid a very tempest of entreaties, remonstrances, and complaints. Of course, when it is remembered that, if all the applications of those wishing to exhibit were entertained, the English alone would require three buildings, it may easily be imagined that there must be a very large proportion of disappointed and complaining suitors. In consequence of the limited amount of space at the disposal of the commissioners as compared with the number and extent of the applications for room, a very large number of intending exhibitors will be unavoidably disappointed; and we cannot help thinking that, when the French and Germans are so carefully marshalling the very élite of all their manufactures against us, too much caution cannot be shown on our part in choosing the firms who are to face them in this contest before all the world.

We this week print an Engraving showing the present state of the building, and also a portion of the grounds of the Royal Horticultural Society.

COMMANDER PEGRIM, CONFEDERATE NAVY.—Commander Pegrim, of the Confederate war-shiper Nashville, was chief officer of the United States' steamer Powhatan in 1855, and rendered valuable service to the British fleet in the Chinese waters in capturing pirates. Sir John Stirling, in his despatches to the Admiralty, makes the following mention of him:—“It is impossible to speak too highly of the American co-operating party engaged. They were with the British fleet each other in the thickest of the attack. But my warmest thanks, in particular, are due to Lieutenant Pegrim, the American senior officer. His encouragement of the men, and coolness under a heavy fire, and determined bravery when surrounded by a persevering and revengeful foe, were conspicuous to all.”

THE SHAKESPEARE FUND.—The following subscriptions have been added to this fund during the last few days:—Mr. Henry Huth (additional), £100; Mr. J. P. Collier, F.S.A., £50; the Rev. William Harness, £10; the Rev. A. Dyer, £50; Lord Vernon, £10; Mr. John Rogers, F.R.S., £5; Mr. W. Ray Smees, F.S.A., £5; Mr. Richard Gueter, £5; Mr. John Wilkinson, F.S.A., £5; Mr. Henry Parnall, £5; Mr. Robert Lang, £5; Mr. J. Litchfield, £5; the Rev. A. Weir, £5; Mr. W. Harrison, F.S.A., £10; Mr. Woodhouse, £10; Mr. H. H. Gibbs, £5; Mr. Archibald Fer, £5; Mr. B. G. Windus, £5. Total amount at present subscribed, £3121.

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861.

## MILITARY MURDERS.

ANOTHER military tragedy has taken place at Aldershot since our last issue. Certain of our contemporaries have traced the distinctions between this last affair and others similar in their results which have preceded it. It seems to us that such distinctions are of little worth so far as the philosophical aspect of the matter is concerned. It has been clearly demonstrated that of a peculiar class of men, subjected to special influences, and with given opportunities, not only one or two, but numerous members, say, on an average one a week, become recklessly homicidal. A little provocation more or less on the part of the victim is scarcely to be considered.

The British soldier, to begin with, can scarcely be said to be selected from the more creditable classes of the community. Few young fellows with the capacity even for handicraft would care to enlist except under the influence of some peculiar pressure. The love of adventure, the temptation of constant, regular food and lodging, the fancied allurements of a soldier's life, no doubt entice a few, but these few must be of a character for which, pecuniarily speaking, there is but little other demand among their countrymen.

The fact is, that of the British private soldier but little is known. He is too ignorant, generally, to make public his habits, his feelings, and his grievances. But, when happening to possess more intelligence and learning than usual in his class, he ventures to address us through print, as in the case of Alexander Somerville, and the more recent memoirs of the life of a private—he has a sad catalogue to unroll. He shows that what is called discipline is frequently the organised maintenance of unreasoning, irresponsible tyranny; that the soldier's life, next to that of the convict, is the most undesirable within the range of human selection, and that the system under which he lives is one tending to the exacerbation of sensitive minds, and to morbid sullen ferocity in more brutal temperaments.

With these sentiments in his mind, the soldier is carefully trained to the most scientific method of killing and disabling his fellow-creatures. His officers, his sole rulers, are enjoined by the strictest rules of the service to treat him as an inferior being, of no earthly interest to them, save so far as he may be commanded by them. Even the corporal, who but yesterday was probably his comrade and companion, would after his promotion be reduced to the ranks if detected taking a glass of beer in his company.

As to his superior officers, his commanders, and subalterns, let the story of the Crimea tell of their wisdom and their prevision. We all know what military officers are as a class. A “military friend” would probably be about the last person to whom a sane man, plunged into a sudden difficulty requiring tact, circumspection, and knowledge of the world, would think of applying for advice and assistance. It appears that officers are prohibited from writing on military matters to the journals, even in self-defence. Perhaps the authorities can foresee the avalanche of ridicule which would follow were their ideas to be exposed to the light of print. One of the class, however, under the signature of “A Field Officer,” has ventured, nevertheless, to address a contemporary. He writes in opposition to a proposal for stopping these continual murders by withholding ammunition from the private soldiers save at necessary periods. His letter, if written ironically, would have been worthy of Swift. He holds that it would be a lack of courage in the officers to take an obvious precaution against cowardly assassination, and intimates that as these murders are generally, though not altogether, perpetrated upon military men, mere civilians have no right to trouble themselves about the matter! One might just as well say that, because the fellow who has just strangled his sister was in the green-grocery line, that other persons who happen to be policemen ought not to interfere.

Of course, there is much to be said in defence of the system. But what can be said on one side or the other is as nothing to the facts. No argument can be more fruitless than that which seeks to prove the right of a cause of which the results are clearly wrong. And as no effect can exist without a cause, there must be some cause for the transformation of English soldiers into assassins. If a certain system produces ten murders in six weeks, by six men of the same class, by means of six weapons of the same kind, that system must be wrong somewhere, argue how you may. Perhaps, the result may be stopped by impeding such use of the weapon. But it is not the weapon that kills so much as the murderous intent in the mind of him who uses it; for the weapon without the man would not kill; while the man might, with the aid of a different implement. The deep-seated cause of all these murders is to be found in the system which trains a man to kill his enemies, excites him to hate those above him by their constant exhibition of the most exas-

perating influence one man can bring to bear on another—namely, contempt; precludes him from most occupations beyond that of brooding on his own real or fancied wrongs, and places in his hand the safest and most deadly invention which modern science has produced for the destruction of human life.

## SAYINGS AND DONCS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE CONSORT paid a visit to the Prince of Wales at Madingley Hall, near Cambridge, on Monday.

It is reported that Miss Nightingale is writing another book.

LORD PALMERSTON has contributed his name as a subscriber to the national (Italian) edition of the “Divina Commedia,” intended to commemorate the risorgimento of the Italian nation.

THE DOWAGER COUNTESS GREY expired on the 26th inst., at her residence in Eaton-square, in her eighty-seventh year.

THE “ALMANACH DE GOtha” for 1862 gives to Victor Emmanuel the title of King of Italy.

THE POET LAUREATE, in compliance with the request of the commissioners, has written an inaugural ode for the Great Exhibition of next year. The ode is now in the hands of Mr. Stendale Bennett, who has undertaken to compose appropriate music for it.

GARIBOLDI has written to a Turin journal contradicting an absurd story, published in a Brussels paper, that he had at one time been a professed pirate.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH has intimated to his tenantry at Slaithwaite that, as he anticipates a season of distress, he is willing to institute such works as may be a benefit to the place if not an advantage to himself.

MR. OLIPHANT has returned to England from Japan.

THE REPORT that General Cialdini had arrived in Paris is incorrect. The General is still in Italy, and it is said, will resume the command of the 4th Corps of the Army.

MAJOR-GENERAL HAYLOCK, brother of the famous Sir H. Haylock, has arrived in New York, having, it is said, taken service in the Federal army. The truth of the latter part of this statement is very questionable.

M. KOSUTH is said to be dangerously ill and to exhibit alarming consumptive symptoms.

SIR GEORGE LEWIS has decided that the office of Assistant Under Secretary for War, vacant by the death of Mr. Godley, shall not be filled up.

A TREATY OF COMMERCE has been signed between Morocco and Spain.

MUSICAL TALENT is at present in great request. It is stated that a celebrated violinist has been offered an engagement on these terms:—“One solo per night, at the rate of £1000 a year—money banked.”

GENERAL BIXIO'S WOUND IS GOING ON WELL. Amputation will not be necessary, and it is hoped that he will recover the full use of his hand.

THE STUDENTS OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE on Monday presented a testimonial to James Anderson, Esq., Q.C., on the occasion of his retiring from the office of treasurer of the society, in token of their admiration of the manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office, especially in connection with the recent admission of the Prince of Wales as a Benchet.

THE LORD ADVOCATE intends to introduce next Session a new Education Bill for Scotland, apparently designed to extend the parish school system and more or less to supersede the Privy Council grants.

THE CANADIAN PAPERS state that letters from the United States are opened at the Federal Post Office.

BLANQUI is seriously ill in Paris, suffering from a tumour in the leg, the progress of which is said to have been so rapid that the Government considered it necessary to have him removed to the Hospital of La Charité.

THE CLERGY OF THE UNITED STATES cost 6,000,000 dollars; criminals, 10,000,000 dollars; lawyers, 35,000,000 dollars; tobacco, 40,000,000 dollars; and rum, 100,000,000 dollars every year.

IN LINCOLN there is, on an average, thirty gallons of laudanum sold every week; in other words, there is weekly as much laudanum consumed in that city as would destroy 6000 strong men—as many as were killed on the field of Waterloo of the Allied and French armies combined.

MR. MORRISON has already met his new constituency of Plymouth, not for the purpose of taking counsel or proclaiming his political tactics, but to inform them of his inability to reward, by places under Government or otherwise, the numerous voters who had applied to him.

THE NAVAL DOCKYARDS AT NAPLES AND AT CASTELLAMARE are now very actively employed. The Italian Minister of Marine has sent positive orders that all the vessels are to undergo every necessary repair, and then be refitted, so as to be ready for service next spring.

IT IS SAID THAT THE EXECUTORS of the late Royal Academician Turner are in possession of unpublished letters and papers which illustrate, in a new way altogether, the details of Turner's life.

THE STEAMER BERNEZA, which recently ran the blockade on the Confederate coast with a cargo of arms, has again accomplished the same, having got clear out with a cargo of cotton for Liverpool.

IT IS SAID THE BEARING OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR at Washington is so haughty, so uncondemning, and so presumptuous, that close observers believe that the object of France is to pick a quarrel of detail with the United States and give themselves a legal excuse for breaking the blockade.

THE EDINBURGH HIGH SCHOOL CLUB have elected Lord Brougham their president.

CHOLERA has made fearful ravages in Cabul. Among its victims is Sirer Peer Mohammed Khan, brother of the Amir of Cabul.

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appears in a New York paper:—“Wanted, a situation as son-in-law in some respectable family. No objections to going a short distance into the country. For references and particulars, address Frank Stuart, Post-office, Williamsburg, N.Y.”

A MEMORIAL TO THE COURT OF ALDERMEN is in preparation on the part of the members of the Stock Exchange for the abolition of the annual tax known as “brokers' rents.”

A “PLUM” (£100,000) has been left by Sir R. Penderbury to Stockport for educational purposes.

THE BISHOP OF MEATH has retired from the Royal Dublin Society, in consequence, it is said, of that body having opened the Glasnevin Gardens on Sundays.

DURING THE NEW ZEALAND OUTBREAK LIEUTENANT CHEVALIER, of the 65th Regiment, brought down two natives with an Enfield rifle at the distance of 2500 yards. The Maories fired upon neither heard nor saw anything.

THE REV. M. WOODARD left the table at the Mayor of Folkestone's annual dinner the other day because a Dissenting minister had been requested to say grace after dinner. This he did, he said, in “vindication of a principle.” Which! That of living in peace and brotherly kindness with all men, perhaps.

A MEMOIR OF THE LATE PROFESSOR WILSON (Christopher North), by his daughter, Mrs. Gordon, will shortly be published. It will be compiled from family papers and correspondence with the leaders of literature at the period.

THE HULL BALTIC STEAMER HEBE has been wrecked on Fahlund, near Gothland, in the Baltic. The cargo had partly been thrown overboard and the ship was going to pieces. The crew are believed to be saved.

THE LIVERPOOL SHIP BRITISH FLAG, on a voyage from the Mersey to Bombay, was abandoned at sea on the 13th inst., having encountered heavy gales and become unmanageable. The crew have been saved and landed at Queenstown harbour.

AT A RECENT SOUTH DEVON AGRICULTURAL MEETING three boys, of ten, twelve, and fourteen years respectively, entered for the hedging prizes, and beat grown-up men.

IT MAY BE SAFELY CALCULATED THAT THERE ARE 75,000 or 80,000 Irishmen, or men of immediate Irish origin, in the service of the United States, and there are upwards of 60,000 Germans, and several thousands of other nationalities.

MR. CHARLES BRIDGER, solicitor, treasurer to the county of Southampton, a gentleman much respected, committed suicide last week at his residence in Winchester by cutting his throat.

JAMES BLOOMFIELD RUSH, son of the Norwich murderer, who was recently apprehended on a charge of burglary, has been discharged, the evidence against him not being sufficient to warrant his committal for trial.

A CONVENTION has been signed with the Italian Government allowing English clerks to be placed in all the principal telegraph-offices throughout Italy, whereby it is hoped the irregularities hitherto existing will be obviated.

LADY CHARLOTTE CHETWYND, wife of Sir George Chetwynd, of Grendon Hall, near Althorpe, and daughter of the Marquis of Downshire, was thrown from her horse on Saturday last, and was so severely injured that she died on Sunday morning, without having recovered consciousness after the accident.

THE BEATRICE, Hull and Rotterdam steamer, is reported as sunk at Helvoet—crew and part of cargo saved.



THE CONVICT LEOPOLD REDPATH has published a volume of poems in America; and, in sending a copy to a clergyman, says the book, he trusts, will be found to contain the sentiments of a penitent heart.

THE PROSECUTION AGAINST MR. ARTHUR RANKIN, of Toronto, arrested for assisting men for the United States' army, has been abandoned, upon condition that the offence, being against an Imperial statute, and committed in a foreign country, could be tried only in the Queen's Bench of England.

THE LIBERAL SPANISH JOURNAL, the *Herin*, has been again condemned in a fine of 1,000 reals for having, in a correspondence from London, contained remarks in praise of Don Juan. Since the 1st of April this journal has paid 151,000 reals in the shape of penalties.

A GIRL died the other day from having imbibed arsenite of copper while engaged in her occupation of an artificial flower-maker. The colouring matter on the leaves had got into her stomach and produced acute inflammation, which, after severe suffering, resulted in death.

A BOY was last week discovered on a ship in the Mersey, where he had been cooped for seven days without food or drink. The ship was from the Sydney, N.S.W., and the lad, wishing to get to Melbourne to his mother, "stowed away" on board in the hope of obtaining a passage. He is now ashore.

GENERAL BOATMEN belonging to Brightlingsea, near Colchester, were last night charged before the magistrates at Sittingbourne with plundering the wreck of the ship *Regina*, stranded on the Essex coast. The investigation was postponed at the request of the accused.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS has written a letter to a contemporary in reference to a proposal to request him to become a candidate for Finsbury, in which he says that he is "not at all the sort of man for the representation of that district," and he believes that "nothing would induce him to offer himself as a parliamentary representative of that or any other place under the sun."

JOSEPH PLYTON, who arrived in this country in the *Nashville*, has addressed a letter to the newspapers in which he denies that there is any Radical party in North Carolina, the State to which he belongs.

THOMAS L'INGLING, LL.D., Assistant Astronomer Royal, died at his residence, Warren Lodge, Edmonton, on the 21st inst., in his eighty-seventh year.

THE WHOLE OF THE SCREW GUN-BOATS attached to the first division of the fleet reserve at Chatham have been supplied with one 100-pounder and one 16-pounder Armstrong pivot gun on their upper decks; and several other cases of the 100-pounder and 40-pounder Armstrong shot and shrapnel shells have also been given out.

THE COLLIERIES OF LANCASHIRE ARE ON STRIKE to the number of between 2,000 and 2,500 in consequence of notice having been given at most of the pits of a reduction of wages to the extent of 2d. in the lb. upon engine coal.

CARDINAL HADAM has addressed a letter to the Neapolitans, in reply to a address, in which he says:—"It is the duty of every Italian to provide himself with a sword. The world knows that you know how to use it; and I believe that the hour is at hand. This is intended for him who tramples under foot the rights of Italy by force and fraud."

MR. GOSIN, the celebrated French philosopher, who is in a very bad state of health, has left Paris for Cannes.

THE HEALTH OF M. LEDRU-ROLLIN is now re-established.

THE MUNICIPALITY AT TURIN has ordered a slab of marble to be inserted in the front of the palace of that town which lately belonged to Count Cavour, bearing the following inscription:—"Count Camille de Cavour was born in this house, August 10, 1810; and died in the same, June 6, 1861. A memorial placed by the municipality."

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG has addressed a long letter to the *Times*, in which he vindicates his guns from the charges recently made against them of being both extremely costly and not to be relied upon.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE ERLE has sent a donation of £10 10s. to the National Lifeboat Institution.

MR. JAMES KING, of Moss Mill, Rochdale, has received an anonymous letter in which the writer states that, unless Mr. King places his hands on the table, his mill will come to the ground, and his own life and the lives of his wife and family are doomed.

THE VICE-ROY OF INDIA has decreed that the land tax may be redeemed by payment of twenty years' rent, and that waterlands shall be sold, in lots of not more than three thousand acres, at a price of five shillings per acre. Farmers secure a five-shilling lease, and the effect of both orders will be to increase greatly the temptation to invest capital in landed improvements.

THE POPULATION OF THE GOLDFIELDS IN THE COLONY OF VICTORIA amounted, in July last, to 255,162, of whom 110,226 were miners; and of these miners 24,670 were Chinese. At these goldfields there were 770 steam engines, the aggregate horse-power of which was 11,663. The value of the gold plant was £1,235,277, and the square miles of goldfields actually worked was 562.

A PARTY OF AMERICANS resident in London, who are favourable to the maintenance of the Union, dined together on Monday evening to celebrate the victory of the Federal forces at Fort Royal. The meeting was held to embrace men from all parts of the country, South as well as North. It was agreed to entertain General Scott at a banquet during his visit to this country.

A DEPUTATION OF NEWSMEN waited on Sir Richard Mayne, Chief Commissioner of Police, on Monday, with the view of inducing him to employ the police in putting a stop to the selling of newspapers in the streets. The Commissioner, after hearing the views of the deputation, said he did not see that the law gave him authority to use the police for such a purpose, but any one feeling aggrieved might take offenders before the magistrates.

A SYSTEM OF REPORTING BY MACHINERY is again announced, the discovery of a Frenchman, named Scott, who has for several years been engaged in experiments on the fixation of sound upon a prepared tablet, in the same way as photography fixes luminous images; and has met, he says, with considerable success in this new art, which he has named "Phonography."

ON THE 5th inst. there were 70,336 barrels of flour, 1,252,337 bushels of wheat, and 1,395,531 bushels of corn at Chicago. The storage capacity at that city for wheat and corn is equal to 5,755,000 bushels. During the week ending 1,239,973 barrels of flour and 12,930,121 bushels of grain had been received at Chicago. These enormous receipts have been owing to the opening of the Mississippi River.

RENNET has won another great running-match. The race took place at Hickney-wick, on Monday, between the Indian and Samuel Barker, of London, for the ten-mile champion challenge cup and £50. The Redskin was victorious, having performed the ten miles in fifty-four minutes. The race, however, was well contested by Barker, who led for a considerable part of the contest, and showed the utmost pluck throughout.

THE INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.—The labours of the committee entrusted with the administration of this fund were brought to a close at a meeting at the Mansion House on Monday, when the accounts were examined and closed. From a statement read to the meeting it appeared that the whole amount of subscriptions received by the London committee at the Mansion House was £114,807 17s. 6d. Of that sum there had been remitted to Calcutta at various times (including £1398 18s. 10d. sent by the recent outgoing mail), £154,988 18s. 10d.; and to Bombay, £57,060—total, £111,998 18s. 10d. The remainder of the disbursements were as follows:—Agriculture, £1982 2s. 3d.; printing, £112 10s.; stationery, £90 12s. 10d.; postage, £115 5s. 3d.; office expenses, clerks' salaries, petty disbursements, &c., £512 8s. 5d. Besides the remittances from the Mansion House, the Calcutta committee had also received, up to the 11th of September last, £16,371 odd from provincial committees in England, and about £2350 from British colonies.

MR. CONNOR.—The reports which have been lately circulated respecting Mr. Connor's health are without foundation, as appears from the following extract from a letter written by the hon. gentleman, and dated the 22nd inst.:—"I am not so bad as the newspapers report. But, not being able to attend all the public meetings to which I am invited, people consider me very ill. My general health is perfectly good; but I am always liable to rheumatic irritation, and am obliged to avoid cold and wet weather, and to keep as much as possible within doors after sunset. With these precautions, I am able to avoid being banished this winter to a southern climate."

THE PRISONER FOR FIFTY YEARS.—William Miller, a prisoner for fifty years, has been examined by Mr. Registrar Winslow, who attended to the prisoner in his own room in the Queen's Bench Prison. The prisoner having been sworn, said he first came into the prison in the year 1811. He was first arrested on Sept. 3, 1814. He carried on business as a carpenter and general cabinet-maker, in Christchurch, Hampshire. He was born there. There was no debt. He owed nothing to the man who arrested him. There was no sherriff's name attached to the document on which he was arrested, and there were no proceedings in any court whatever. He had never petitioned the Bankruptcy or Insolvent Court, as he owed no man anything. He had a life interest in some house property, but had not received the rents since he had been imprisoned. He had sisters who were poor. His mother was alive when he was arrested, but had died since. His sisters did not receive the rents. He did not know who received them. The only money he received from them was from one tenant, who sent him from time to time £10. On being asked whether he was willing to be made a bankrupt, he said he could not, as he owed no man anything, and he was not willing to be made one.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

STATISTICS, when complete and accurate, are very valuable; but when they are incomplete, loose, and inaccurate, they are of no value, but are rather mischievous. George Canning once said that there are no greater liars than facts; and this is true, and the greatest liars of all are incomplete and loose statistical facts. Now, among these loose statistics I must class Mr. Bass's annual Parliamentary figures—not but that they are correct enough as far as they go, but they do not go far enough; and they are so arranged as to produce an utterly false impression. For example, one impression which they produce is that those members who talk most often utter the most talk, and consequently waste most of the time of the House. Now, neither of these positions is true. Take, for example, the case of Mr. Williams, the member for Lambeth. This gentleman, when the House is in Committee of Supply, will on some nights rise twenty or thirty times; but he does not occupy so much time by these twenty or thirty speeches as Mr. Darby Griffith will waste on one of his long, incoherent, and unintelligible harangues on foreign affairs. Here, then, Mr. Bass's statistics utterly fail. Again, Mr. Bass's annual resumé seems to be intended to hold up, on the one hand, the talkers in the House as nuisances, and the silent, or almost silent, men as model members. Now, with this it is impossible for any thoughtful man to agree. Let us, by way of illustration, take two cases, each typical of a class in the House. Mr. A. is a member of Parliament; but it is evident that he takes little interest in his duties. In the morning he is at the hillside or beating covers. In the evening, after having galloped home, dressed, and dined, he hurries down to the House to see what is up and whether he is wanted. "Want me?" he says to the whip. "No, not particularly; but leave word where you are going," replies that functionary; and then the said member hurries off to the Opera, or to a ball, or being tired with his day's sport, to bed. This is the representative of one class. Mr. B. is the representative of another. He takes a deep and intelligent interest in everything that comes before the House; never lets a bill pass without examination, and is never out of his place. Now, of course, A. never, or but very seldom, addresses the House, whilst B. is a frequent talker. But which is the best member, A. or B.? Mr. Bass's statistics and comments are intended to hold up A. as a model member and B. as a bore. But is this so? I apprehend that all Englishmen, when they come to understand the matter, will say "No." The fact is, there is a great deal of loose, windy, and unprofitable talk in the House. Of this there cannot be a doubt; and if Mr. Bass would point out who these unprofitable talkers are, and hold them up to reprobation, he would be doing the State service; but these vague statistics of the number of speeches and hours occupied are of little or no value. Mr. Ayrton, for example, is a frequent talker, and I do not say that he does not talk too much at times; but he is an invaluable member; whilst Mr. Lord Topham never talks, denounces all talking as a bore, and is, indeed, seldom in the House. But is he a valuable member? On the whole, then, I cannot think very highly of Mr. Bass's statistics. He means well, but he is on the wrong scent.

SIR ALLAN NAPIER M'NAB, Bart., who was on board the North Briton when that vessel was wrecked, is one of the most notable men in Canada. He was sometime Speaker of the Canadian Assembly, and his daughter is married to Lord Bury, the eldest son of the Earl of Albemarle.

Who is the Turin correspondent of the *Times* who bears so hardly upon Mazzini and his party? The friends of Mazzini assert as a fact well known that it is the man (I withhold his name) who was once a Republican, went to Mazzini and offered to enact the part of Brutus, met with an indignant rebuke, afterwards charged Mazzini with tempting him to become an assassin, and was obliged to eat his words and retire into obscurity. The whole history of this bad business, I am told, may be found in the columns of the defunct *Leader* newspaper, if any one will take the trouble to dig that paper out of the vaults of the British Museum. I warn him, however, that he will have a task unless he can tell the particular volume which contains the information, for the paper is not named in the catalogue, and whether there is or is not an index I could not learn. Perhaps a file of this paper may be in existence somewhere else, and more accessible. Can any reader of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* give information on the subject?

The Government has been in a most unpleasant quandary about the steamer *Nashville*. There have been meetings at Downing-street—meetings at the Admiralty. Collier, the Admiralty counsel, the Attorney-General, and the Solicitor-General have all been obliged to search their books and rack their brains for law and precedent to guide their Majesty's Ministers in this delicate business. It would appear, however, that the question is settled at last. The *Nashville* is to be allowed to refit and proceed to sea. And now she had better make haste and get away, for information of her whereabouts and achievements has been sent to New York, and to a dead certainty steps will be taken to waylay her and catawampously claw her up.

Who will be the new Judge? When Sir Richard Bethell was elevated to the Woolsack it was said that Mr. Justice Hill would soon retire, and that Mr. Collier would have his place as a compensation for the loss of the solicitor-generalship, which he expected to get, and to which he was thought to have a strong claim. Mr. Justice Hill has now retired, and it is supposed that Mr. Collier will succeed him, or that Sir W. Atherton will take the judgeship. B. Palmer be the Attorney-General, and Mr. Collier, Solicitor. In either case there will be a vacancy for Plymouth or for Darham. Mr. Collier is a good lawyer, and would no doubt make a good Judge.

The difficulties in the way of forming a strong Conservative Government are so formidable, and Lord Palmerston is so perfectly master of the situation, that it has been settled, and privately announced, if not with positive authority with an air of authority, that unless something unforeseen turn up, no attempt will be made to turn out the Ministry next Session. It is true, I believe, that words were dropped by a Conservative leader at a conference upon the hop duties which led to a supposition that the Conservatives would try a coup d'état:—"He was favourable to the repeal of these duties; but, as he might be in a different position next year, he could not pledge himself." These were the words, I believe, spoken; and upon this hint a rumour spread that the party meant war. But it is possible that the words were wrongly reported, or that they were used to get rid of importunate solicitations. At all events, it is now everywhere asserted that no such attempt will be made.

"Take the lead and keep it" is the motto of electioneers, and, generally, if a candidate can head the poll by fifty votes at ten o'clock his election is thought to be safe; but at Carlisle Mr. Hodgson, the Conservative, was at ten o'clock fifty a head and yet was beaten; and this is easily accounted for. Early in the morning the working men were all at work; at noon they left for dinner, and then the majority for Hodgson was reduced; at three o'clock it had fallen still lower, and at the close of the poll Potter was returned by three majority. This is a sad disappointment for the Conservatives, for they thought that they were sure of this seat.

Mr. Vernon, who will walk over the course for East Worcester-shire, is a hybrid politician; but he certainly will not sanction any attempt to disturb Lord Palmerston. If Mr. Remington Mills should stand for Finsbury, in all probability he will succeed. He is a City merchant, a Dissenter, and very rich. In 1857, at the general election, he contested Leeds, and was beaten by ninety-four. On the death of Mr. Hall, in the same year, he fought Mr. Beecroft single-handed, and lost by only six votes.

Some weeks ago I hinted that Messrs. Laird, of Birkenhead, were Government contractors, and that consequently Mr. Laird could not sit in Parliament. I understand that this difficulty has been got rid of by the retirement of Mr. Laird, the candidate, from the firm. The writ for Birkenhead will be issued next Monday or Tuesday. The odds at present are in favour of Laird.

## THE COUNTY COURTS.

THE first and last and only taste of law I ever indulged in was at a County Court. It is a long time ago, and I was new in the brain market when Judas M'Swill, the publisher, demurred to the liquidation of a little account of mine. Litigation was never to my mind, and it was not until I had seriously impaired a pair of double-soled shoes in "calling again," that I appealed to one of her Majesty's Commissioners, who promptly cited Judas and I to appear before him that the matter might be settled. It was settled. Judas paid the money, and has, I hope, by this time recovered the painful extraction. I have spent the money, and forgotten even what I bought with it, so we will say no more about it. Indeed, the little affair would never have been mentioned at all, only, as I was bound to account in some way for my presence at so undesirable a place, I saw no particular reason why truth should suffer.

About the ways of the Court, therefore, or the laws which regulate its working, I am ignorant, as I should wish to be. I don't even know for certain whether or no a man who owes a debt and won't or can't pay it may be remitted to prison from time to time for the term of "forty days," and for all the days of his life; and am by no means assured of the accuracy of the popular belief that you may with impunity owe a man three-pence-halfpenny, or three-pence-three-farthings even, that you may at once embark in the business founded by Jeremiah Diddler, and, while you keep your individual defalcations at three-pence-three-farthings, may laugh your creditors to scorn, and defy them to set the law at you. But beware of owing the other farthing. That is the other little coin that breaks the back of the law's patience. Three-pence-three-farthings, if you please: throw in another fourth of a penny, and up goes the County Court Commissioner.

I certainly might have ascertained more about these matters if instead of lingering about the lobby till the crier cried "Greenfinch v. M'Swill!" I had remained in the body of the court and joined the bare-headed motley crowd that, thick as cattle in a cattle-shed, crowded the narrow space that fronted the judicial bar. Here again my ignorance of County Court practice bothers me. Ten o'clock is the hour at which the doors of the court are opened, and at ten o'clock the whole number of plaintiffs and defendants concerned in the day's business—to the number of at least three hundred—are bound to attend, and, packed in the stifling justice-room, hanging about the stone-paved lobby, or beguiling the time at the public-house next door, and over the way, and round the corner, wait till their "case" comes on, which may happen at twelve, two, or four o'clock, according to the programme. The sum for which County Court litigants may set the curious machinery of the law in motion is certainly very low, and they can scarcely, while enjoying the sweet spectacle, expect first-class accommodation at third-class fare here any more than elsewhere; but why they should be condemned to corn-crushing and suffocation before ever their causes are tried seems, to an ignorant mind, somewhat inexplicable.

Such a mob it was that crowded that mite of a court. There were placid-faced debtors, with whom owing money was a natural weakness, and one they were perfectly resigned to; and shame-faced debtors, who, perspiring freely, kept in the rear of bulky people, and who were in agonies when a move in the business shifted their screen and exposed their guilty presence to the majority of the assembly; there were saucy debtors, who, from the shadow of their bonnets, regarded their creditors defiantly and with a wag of the head that plainly expressed "Much good you will get by this business, my friend;" and meek, used up, listless debtors, on whom the shadow of the "forty days" had already fallen, who were used to "forty days," and regarded their advent with dull eyes, significant of spirits whipped to rags by adversity. Of the genus *bullet* the samples were as numerous. There was the hard-faced, bullet-headed man, looking as pugacious at least as a "second" at a prizefight, and who had come there to "have it out," who looked out constantly for the Judge's eye, and, when he caught it, smiled at his Worship in a friendly way, and winked softly, as much as to say, "My case will be on directly; if it don't astonish you never trust me again." There was the smug-faced "tally" rascal, and his brother, the director of the Cent-per-cent Loan Office, both to be known by the pencil behind their ears and the slip of paper in their hands, and each looking as complacent as might a fox that, having run down and lamed a rabbit, was content to lick his lips awhile and contemplate its picking; then there was the nervous creditor (as was Greenfinch), whose debtor was cunning and celish, and might be expected to glide through the meshes of the law, leaving the creditor richer in nothing but experience. Very curious, too, was it to observe the gulping, and winking, and mumbling of lips indulged in by plaintiff and defendant and witnesses, conning over the neat things they meant to say to his Worship when come to his awful presence. Ah! those gulping and winking! How much good conscience is swallowed and put to sleep during the process? It is terrible to think how much; for it may be safely assumed that in seven cases out of every ten that come before the Judge of the Debtors' Court, A. will solemnly swear that white is black, and B. that black is white, so that the real evidence in the case is of no weight at all; and the Judge, on the strength of his experience, awards a verdict to the most modest perjurer of the two.

As a rule, however, when fiscal foemen pass the threshold of the justice-hall, personal feeling is tacitly sheathed, and no more formidable weapons displayed than figures, assertions that are more or less facts, and hard swearing. Decorum is insisted on. Mrs. M'Turvey, who lent her best shawl to Miss Donovan—a favour which that person acknowledged by mortgaging the garment for enough money to enable herself and the bridegroom to get dreadfully tipsy, and while in that state to fall on and maltreat the entire Turvey family—much as the outraged Mrs. M.T. may be stirred by a recital of her injuries, she does not allude to the aggressor in stronger terms than as a "woman" and a "person." The weak-kneed tailor who summons Mr. Levy for 10d., the price for making a pair of the celebrated "Peckham" trousers, is bound, in deference to his Honour's awful presence, to allude to his bone-grinder as "that gentleman." If you would see debtor and creditor *en naturel*, you must not go beyond the lobby of the court. Here the shoemaker meets his tardy customer, and wishes to know if "things is to go on, or is he to be paid as a gentleman should;" and the general dealer meets the out-of-work carpenter's wife and discusses with her the payment of that long bread-and-butter score; and the bland undertaker meets the poor soul in black crape, that she and he may presently stand before the justice seat to argue why an execution should or should not be levied on the widow's goods. Not that it must be imagined that County Court law is an instrument whose sole use is to aid the strong right against the unfortunate Wrong, or to hamper the feet of those steeped in misery till nearly drowned. Without its intervention much roguery would go unchecked, and simple honesty go lean, while clever chicanery fattened. It is the disciples of this latter school, especially, who are anxious for "lobby" settlements. They evade the Commissioner as the snailfisher from to shrike evades the dentist, and, to get off quietly, will pay down their money rather than have it forcibly extracted by judicial forecups.

Within the lobby, and lurking about the outer steps, may any hom of the day be seen dodging and worming in and about the disputations through, restless as ants and impudent as flies, certain sharp-shanked, seedy sharks, who, having somehow picked up a few scraps of legal knowledge, set up as public advisers on a small scale. They don't pretend to fees (they know enough of criminal law not to risk that). Anything will do, a shilling or sixpence, or—indeed, anything but odd halfpence. The tactics of some of this fraternity are ingenious. Brown disputing an account with Robinson endeavours to settle matters without going into court. Brown doesn't succeed, and the disputants part company. Long eared Shark has overheard something of the case and the names of the disputants. Two





LONDON SKETCHES, NO. 14.—THE BLOOMSBURY COUNTY COURT.

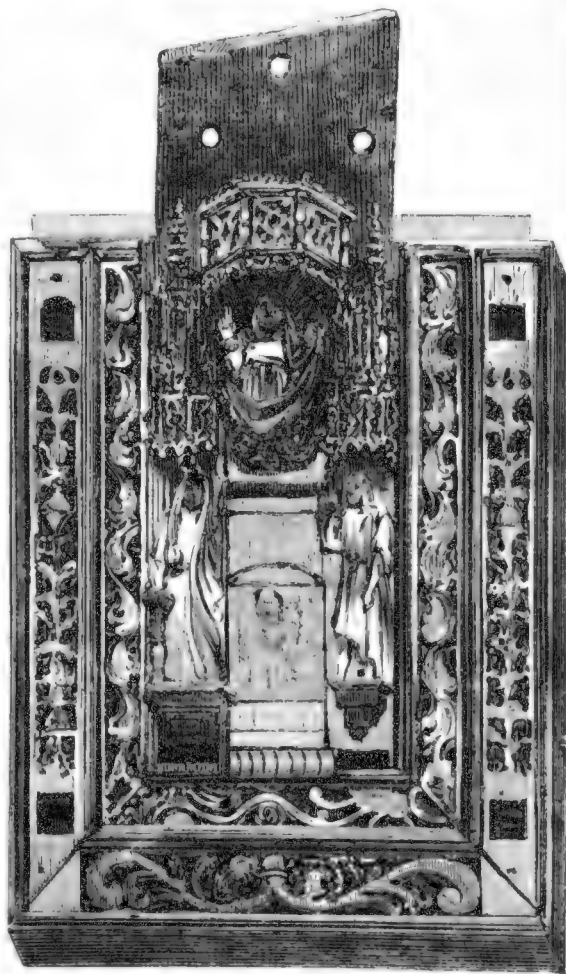
minutes afterwards Shark taps Brown on the shoulder—"I say, now, Mr. Brown," says he, "let me prevail on you to come to some arrangement with Robinson—save hearing-fees, you know; and from what I know of the case it will certainly go against you." That is, of course, according to his version of the story. "You could put a different complexion on the matter, eh?" "Well, well, don't mind me; I'm no more Robinson's man than yours—just a lawyer friend, who doesn't like to see honest men quarrel." Robinson's lawyer thanks the affrighted Brown, and for his credit's sake proceeds to put the legal gentleman in possession of the facts of the case, together with the terms he will come to. "And suppose I bring him to accept?" inquires the Shark significantly. Brown has heard of the constitutional roguery of lawyers, and thinks it nothing very dreadful to avail himself of the perfidy of Robinson's adviser at the expense of half a guinea. Straightway is Brown's overture carried to Robinson, who, making sure from the Shark's knowledge of the case that he is specially retained by Brown, comes to terms, and the business is completed.

As it is generally understood that County Court Judges are apt to favour the victims of the "tally" trader's machinations, and to dislike his representative within the court, there is another to be found in the lobby with whom "terms"—say the expense of the summons and five shillings for the creditor's trouble paid down, and the weekly payments to go on as usual—may be made. Or perhaps the debtor's employer will be responsible for the debt, or one or two of the tally debtor's neighbours will "put their names" by way of security. I saw one of the above-mentioned Sharks who had pinned what seemed

to be an engineer behind a pillar, and, being a little inquisitive to know the Shark's tactics, I leant against the other side of the pillar. "Oh, no!" explained the engineer, "it ain't a tally debt—leastways it ain't now; but it was. Three pun' fourteen the bill was last Whitsuntide, and a weskit, and a shawl and a pair of military heels for my missus, was the things. Well, we brought it down to two pun' fifteen, and then I fell slack. Then he comes and he says, 'You're

#### ANCIENT OBJECTS FOR DOMESTIC USE IN THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THE use of knives and forks at meals, such as we are accustomed to see every day, is comparatively a very modern custom. There is, we believe, but one example of an antique fork; this is engraved in the *Recueil* of Count Caylus, and is said to have been dug up in the Via Appia at Rome; none, however, have been found amongst the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Knives and forks are said to have been in use at Constantinople in the eleventh century, and in Italy amongst the nobles they were used in 1330. There is direct mention of these articles in the wardrobe accounts of Edward I. as "a pair of knives with sheath of silver enamelled, and a fork of crystal." This shows how rare they were, and how richly ornamented. The spreading of a clean, white cloth on the table is a far more ancient custom, and one peculiarly English, though possibly derived originally from the Romans. The Anglo-Saxons spread a reed-seat, and their successors a drapet, on the table; but there is nothing said about knives and forks, and spoons. Eating and drinking in those days was not conducted in the decorous and orderly style of modern times; each person generally carried his own knife, the meat and other substantial being placed upon the table *en masse*. The pocket-knife, aided by the fingers—the most ancient of all forks—

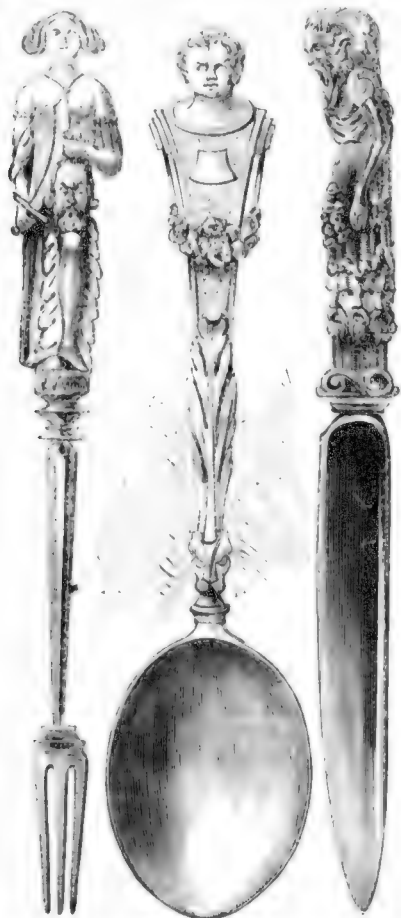


ANCIENT FRENCH GOTHIC LOCK.

a respectable man; why don't you borrow the money?' Says I, 'I wouldn't like any of my people to know as I wanted it; besides, it ain't so easy to borrow as to talk.' 'Well,' said he, 'borrow it at a loan-office. I wouldn't press you, but I must make up a bill by Tuesday. Borrow it at Sloman's, and I'll be your security. Borrow five pounds, and then you'll have a little for yourself after you've paid me.' So I agreed. Let's see! Two pun' fifteen to him, sixteen and tenpence stopped for interest and that—well, I got about three 'arf-crowns. Now, you know, it stands this way. The tallyman, being my security, was obliged to pay the 'rears of the loan, which it's all 'rears, besides a jolly lot of fines; and now he summonses me, which of course it's his right, and I'll pay him if he gives me time. I've got work now, and I'll pay him five shilling a week if he'll take it.' 'Ah, well,' said the Shark, 'I'll go and see what I can do for you.' That he did something satisfactory I am pretty well certain, for, on passing up the street shortly afterwards, I saw the engineer and the Shark emerging from a public-house.



TABLE MIRROR OF THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD.



KNIFE, FORK, AND SPOON OF 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES



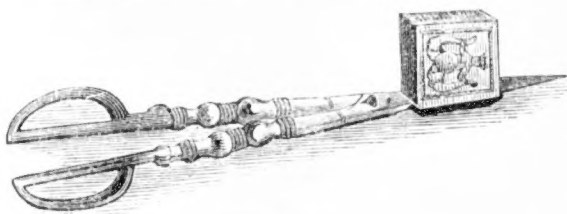


VENETIAN BELLOWS OF THE 16TH CENTURY.

answered the purpose of both peasant and peer in early days. The rich and noble, of course, provided themselves with these requisites long before they became more general, and this accounts for some of the really beautiful specimens of art-workmanship in this line, which are occasionally seen. The knife and fork of Diane de Poitiers, for example, which are in the possession of a collector in this country, are very remarkable; the handles are beautifully carved with figures in ivory, and the case is also excellent in design and workmanship. These were evidently worn at the girdle, as was the custom for ladies; the ring to hold them is still perfect. Wedding gifts generally included a knife and fork for the girdle. The favourite device was to form some kind of figure in the handle, or, as Nicholls says of Queen Elizabeth's meat-knife, "a conceyte in it." Knives and forks were only in partial use in the seventeenth century in England. The knife and fork of our Engraving are not a pair, though the work is of about the same period, and both are of French or Flemish work of the sixteenth century. The handle of the fork is in ivory, representing Judith with the head of Holofernes, rather a waggish choice of subject. The knife handle is of brass, chased into a terminal figure of a satyr with masks. The spoon is carved in ivory, and has for its fellow a fork carved with the same terminal pedestal and bust of an amorino, apparently French work of late in the seventeenth century. The custom of presenting a spoon to the godchild after the christening is a very old one, and these spoons were always very richly worked in silver, and sometimes in gold, the handle being finished by a statuette of the Virgin or one of the saints or apostles; hence they are called apostle-spoons.

The very beautiful table-mirror is a piece of Italian work of the best time of the fifteenth century. It is carved most delicately in walnut-wood, and nothing can be more graceful and symmetrical than the design, which is in the style of the revived Classic, or, as we say, the Renaissance. It stands one foot and a half high, the plate, which is bright metal (probably steel), being 10½ by 8½ inches. The ornamentation is particularly well carved, though not in high relief; it consists of the Greek acanthus on the mouldings of the frame, with a very charming composition of the acanthus-leaf in profile and palmettes or perhaps fern fronds, on the flat, repeated again upon the curved face of the foot or base, which is quadrangular. The circular medallion spaces on the several faces of the foot are filled each with a different device—a lighted torch, an elephant, a swan carrying a nail, and a beaver or otter holding a scroll. It is conjectured to have belonged to the Malatesta family of Rimini, on account of the elephant, which was the favourite device of Sigismund Pandulpho Malatesta and his mistress Isotta. He was a great patron of the arts, and employed Leon Battista Alberti to build the Church of San Francesco at Rimini; and this mirror-frame has been considered to be his design. It is singular that, though glasswork was so well known to the ancients, glass-plate mirrors with metal at the back were not invented till 1688, by Abraham Thevart, though at Murano, the great factory of Venetian glass, the art of placing foil on glass was known in the sixteenth century. The Greek and Roman mirror-frames, of which there are many still in existence, were of bronze, richly chased, and generally of circular form, with a handle. Ivory frames or cases, very prettily carved, were commonly used in the middle ages, and these were carried in the pocket, according to the custom which prevailed for centuries afterwards. M. Soulages seems to have been fortunate in obtaining examples of mirrors. Besides that which our Engraving shows, his collection included four others, one of which is attributed to Cellini, and another, which is circular, is said to have belonged to the notorious Lucrezia Borgia, as it bears her device of a flaming grenade.

The bellows furnish a good example of the completeness which the Italians insisted upon having in their houses. They were in old times an indispensable source of comfort in blowing the dull and fading wood embers into a bright and cheerful blaze. As they always occupied a prominent and handy place near the splendid hearth, it was impossible they should be other than magnificent, and hence we have beautifully-carved bellows preserved in most museums. The example we have chosen is one of the finest in existence, though in the same collection (the Soulages) there is another, said to have belonged to Hercules, Duke of Ferrara, of the Este family, whose arms it bears, which is allowed to be the very finest bellows known. The specimen we engrave is Venetian work of the middle of the sixteenth century. Both sides are carved in high relief and picked out in gold, as shown by the light parts of the Engraving. The nozzle is of bronze, finely chased and carved with terminal figures. The back or opposite leaf is filled by a large mask, the mouth of



ANCIENT SNUFFERS.

which forms the airhole. The design is extremely good. The form of the bellows is itself well suited for ornament; but it is rarely we see a space filled in better taste than this. The composition of the satyr figures, with the scroll or cartouche work, and the standing figure in the centre with the radiating gadroons, is most cleverly managed. These were not a mere toy pair of bellows, but a thoroughly good, substantial working pair, measuring 2ft. 6in long, and wide in proportion. They were, of course, the State bellows, and the daintiest lady, we imagine, would not ring for a servant when, with such a pair, it would be a pleasure to sit and muse over the glowing embers as they burnt brighter, and threw a light upon



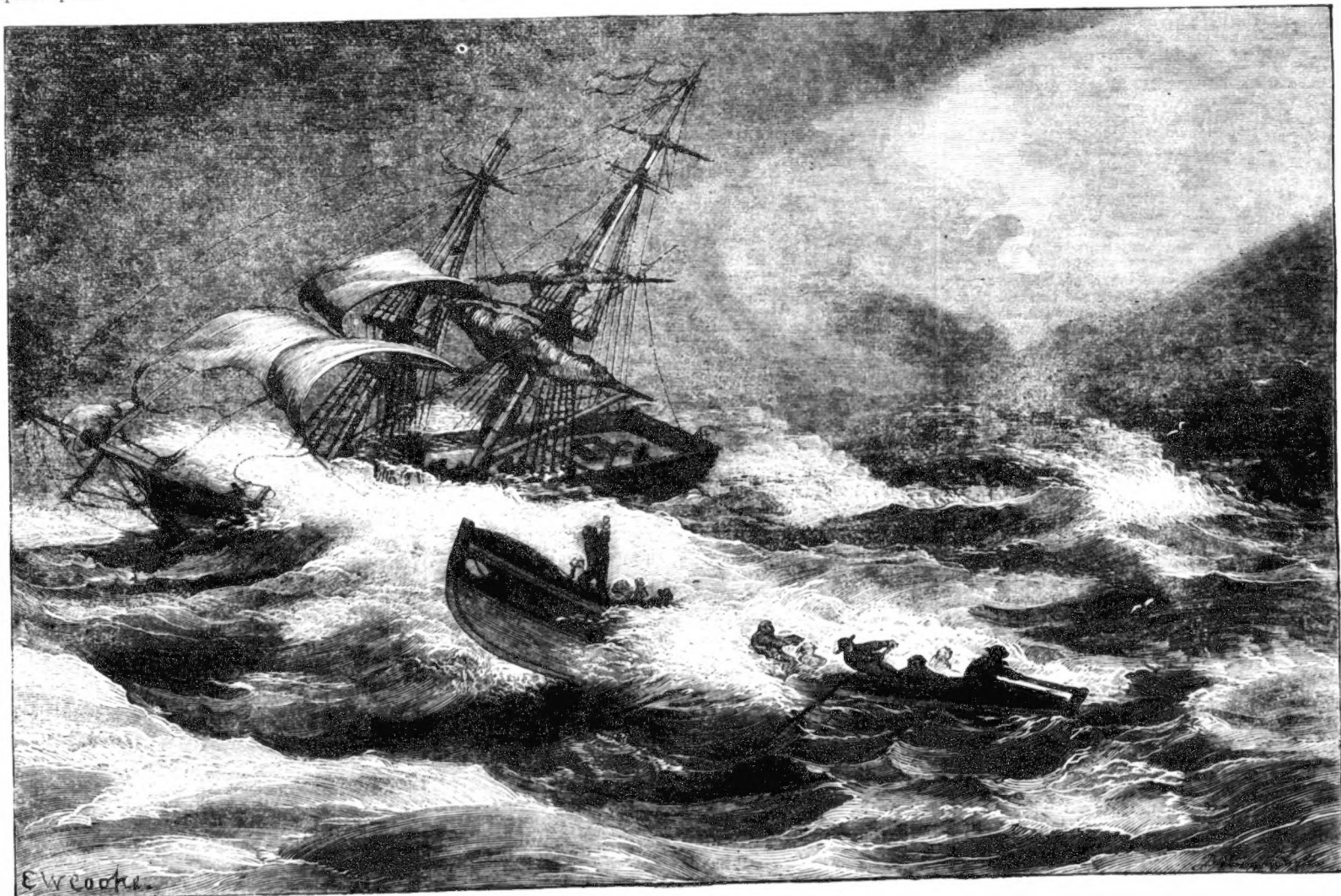
FLORENTINE BRONZE LAMP OF THE 15TH CENTURY.

the amorino crowned with flowers, slyly suggesting thoughts of love and sentiment,—fanning the flame in the heart of the maiden whose lover was gone far away to the wars.

The bronze lamp is an early Florentine work of the fifteenth century, probably copied, in some measure, from the antique of Roman style, as the negro head which forms the body of the lamp, and the grotesque or rustic feet with lizards upon them, suggest the taste of the later Roman grotesques. The height of this lamp is 10in.

The lock is a capital example of locksmiths' work of the French-Gothic period, about A.D. 1500. It is entirely cut by the chisel, and must have occupied a first-rate metal-worker a considerable time to execute, to say nothing of the elaborate design. It is, unfortunately, not in its original state, having lost the centre figure of Christ Crucified, which no doubt occupied the space between the statues of the Virgin and St. John. Thus, with the representation of the Almighty in glory above, in the attitude of blessing, the whole composition became a conventional representation of the Crucifixion, or, as it is called, a *rood*. This superb lock was no doubt made for some of the coffers or chests in which the sacristan kept the sacramental vessels and vestments of the ancient Church of Rome. The architectural work of the canopy is particularly well cut, and, like the figures, executed in full relief. The flat work of the lock is ornamented with perforated tracery and scroll foliage very boldly carved. It measures 9in. by 6½in. This also belonged to the Soulage Collection, and is now in the South Kensington Museum.

The snuffers are more curious as an archaeological relic than as metalwork; and probably the device of a double-tailed mermaid, crowned, refers to the ancient household to which they belonged.



THE H.M.S. GANGES LIFE BOAT—A NIGHT ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.



## A NIGHT ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.

"God have mercy upon the poor fellows at sea!" Household words, these, in English homes, however far inland they may be, and, although near them, the blue sea may have no better representative than a sedge-choked river or canal, along which slow barges urge a lazy way. When the storm-wreck darkens the sky and gales are abroad, seaward fly the sympathies of English hearts, and the prayer is uttered with, perhaps, a special reference to some loved and absent sailor. It is those, however, who live on the sea-coast and watch the struggle going on in all its terrible reality—now welcoming ashore, as wrested from death, some rescued sailor; now mourning over those who have found a sudden grave almost within call of land—that learn truly to realise the fearfulness of the strife and to find an answer to the moaning of the gale in the prayer, "God have mercy on the poor fellows at sea!"

This lesson is, perhaps, more fully learnt at Ramsgate than at any other part of the coast. Four fifths of the whole shipping trade of London pass within two or three miles of the place. Between fifty and a hundred sail are often in sight at once—pretty picture on a sunny day, or when a good, wholesome breeze is blowing along; but anxious, withal, when the clouds are gathering and you see the fleet making the best of its way to find shelter in the Downs, and a south-westerly gale means up, and the last of the fleet are caught by it, and have to anchor in exposed places near the Goodwin Sands.

The accompanying illustration, drawn by the celebrated marine-painter Mr. G. W. Cooke, represents an incident that transpired four years ago. Never, perhaps, before or since, did men and boat live through such peril as the Ramsgate life-boat's crew encountered on the night of the 26th of November, 1857.

The day in question had been very threatening throughout; it was blowing very fresh, with occasional squalls from the east north-east, and a heavy sea running. The boatmen had been on the look-out all day, but there were no signs of their services being required. Still they hung about the pier till long after dark. At last many were straggling home, leaving only those who were to watch during the night, when suddenly some thought they saw a flash of light. A few seconds of doubt, and the boom of a gun decided the point. At once there was a rush for the Northumberland life-boat, which was moored about thirty yards from the pier. In a few minutes she was alongside, her crew being already more than made up. She was overmanned, and the two last on board had to turn out. The cork jackets, in accordance with the regulations of the National Life-boat Institution, were on each man in the life-boat; the men were in their places, and all ready for a start in a few minutes. They had not been less active in the steamer the *Aid*, which was to tow the life-boat out, and in less than half an hour from the firing of the gun she steamed gallantly out of the harbour with the life-boat in tow.

Off they went, ploughing their way through a heavy cross sea, which often swept completely over the boat. The tide was running strongly, and the wind in their teeth; it was hard work breasting both sea and wind in such a tide and gale; but they bravely set to their work, and gradually made headway. They steered for the Goodwin, and, having got as near to the breakers as they dared take the steamer, worked their way through a heavy head sea along the edge of the sands, on the look-out for the vessel in distress. At last they made her out in the darkness, when the steamer slipped the hawser of the life-boat, and anchored almost abreast of the vessel with about sixty fathom of chain out. There was a heavy rolling sea, but much less than there had been, as the tide had gone down considerably. The life-boat made in for the brig, carried on through the surf and breakers; and when within about forty fathoms of the vessel lowered her sails, threw the anchor overboard, and veered alongside. She proved to be a brig belonging to Lisbon.

On reaching the vessel they found the Broadstairs's small life-boat under her lee, and her crew of five men on board the vessel. The officers and crew of the ship would not leave her at first, although it was evident she could not be saved. The life-boats remained by her until 2.30 a.m., when she filled, and began to break up. The Broadstairs life-boat being damaged and disabled, her crew, together with that of the brig, numbering eighteen in all, were then taken into the Ramsgate life-boat, which, with her load of thirty-one persons, including her own crew, and with the small damaged life-boat in tow, made sail through the broken water across the sands, in the direction of Ramsgate, having failed to discover the steamer which had been for hours cruising up and down the edge of the sand's vainly searching for the boat. Striking heavily on the sands, the life-boat came in contact with the Broadstairs's small boat, and completed her destruction; but, driving safely over the shoals herself, she finally arrived, together with her living freight, safe and sound in Ramsgate harbour. The master of the steam-tug, *Daniel Reading*, having lost all trace of the life-boat, lay to until daybreak under some anxiety for her safety, when he returned to the harbour, where, to his great joy, he found them all safe and right.

The captain of the life-boat, James Hogben, was chosen to that position for his fortitude and daring, and well he sustained his character that night, never for one moment losing his presence of mind, and doing his utmost to cheer the men up. The crew consisted of hardy, daring fellows, ready to face any danger, to go out in any storm, and to do battle with the wildest seas; but that night was almost too much for the most iron nerves. The fierce, freezing wind, the darkness, the terrible surf and beating waves, and the men unable to do anything for their safety; the boat almost hurled by the force of the waves from sandridge to sandridge, and apparently breaking up beneath them each time she was lifted on the surf and crushed down again upon the sand, besides the danger of her getting foul of any old wrecks, when she would have gone to pieces at once,—how all this was lived through seems miraculous. Time after time there was a cry, "Now she breaks—she can't stand this—all over at last—another such a thump and she's done for!" and all this lasted for more than two hours, as, almost yard by yard for about two miles, they beat over the sands.

This narrative will do its intended work if it teaches the reader to realise to any greater extent the nature and danger of the life-boat service, and to give a deeper meaning to the prayer which he is tempted to utter as the storm moans and howls over his head, "God have mercy upon the poor fellows at sea!" Especially will it serve its end if it persuade him to secure this consolation, that he has himself a part in the work that may even now be going on on some part of the coast. It will serve its end if, while his mind dwells upon the wrecked vessels, the drowning sailors, and the life-boat manned by brave fellows, battling out to sea in the storm and darkness, speeding upon its errand of mercy, he may be able to feel that it is owing to his exertions, in conjunction with those of other contributors to the National Life-boat Institution, that foreign sailors can bear the noble testimony to our humanity which the captain of a foreign vessel once did bear when he said, "Ah! we may always know whether it is upon the English coast that we are wrecked by the efforts that are made for our rescue."

The Ramsgate life-boat was the property of the Ramsgate Royal Harbour Commissioners. She was built by Messrs. Beeching and Sons, of Great Yarmouth, from their model which gained the prize of £100 given in 1851 by the Duke of Northumberland, President of the Royal National Life-boat Institution. Since 1852 she has been instrumental in rescuing the lives of nearly two hundred persons from various wrecks on the Goodwin Sands.

Before concluding our account of this gallant service, we must say a few more words on behalf of the National Life-boat Institution, whose life-boats have saved during the first fortnight of the present month thirty-six shipwrecked persons from a watery grave, making a total of 443 lives saved from shipwreck by the society's life-boats during the past twenty-two months.

Public and private gratitude calls for the support of such an institution as this, and some instances have been recorded which

show how gratitude works, and how its work is repaid. The life-boat stationed at Carnore, on the Irish coast, was the "thank-offering" of a lady who was saved from drowning. There is another instance recorded of two ladies who, in memory of a departed sister, have placed a life-boat at Llandudno, in North Wales, and named it the "Sisters' Memorial." The memory of departed worth, or departed affection, could not be preserved in a more fitting manner. The memorial is all goodness and all mercy, with not a worldly taint about it. It is to keep these benevolences in active operation, to endow them permanently, that the Life-boat Institution appeals to the public. It is an appeal that will stand any test—a cause that all can assist in—and a cause that only requires to be known to ensure a sufficiency of help to keep up its large life-saving fleet of 116 life-boats, and gradually to increase their number.

## CONCERTS.

THE second of the Monday Popular Concerts, being principally devoted to the music of Mozart, was, as a matter of course, attractive. Indeed, we have seldom seen St. James's Hall better filled, or with a more discriminative and admiring audience. The first piece in the programme was the quartet in C major, for two violins, viola, and violoncello, the executants being MM. Vieuxtemps, Ries, Webb, and Pague, who all played with the nicest appreciation of every note, and brought out the many fine points of this composition. The brilliant sonata in D major was played by Mr. Charles Hallé with all his finish and masterly rounding of periods. He is the elocutionist of pianoforte-players, and, if occasionally wanting in the grace and delicacy which mark the playing of Miss Arabella Goddard, is never deficient where his theme demands emphatic enunciation. The beautiful quintet in A major, known, *par excellence*, as the "clarinet quintet," introduced Mr. Lazarus for the first time this season to the audience of the Monday Concerts; and there could have been no person, we are sure, in all that crowded assembly, who did not carry away with the pleasant recollections of the evening a strong desire to hear that prince of clarinet-players in the same music again. The directors cannot choose but repeat the quintet in their winter series of concerts once or twice, if not oftener. The encore which honoured the interpretation of the largethetto movement was as undeniably warranted by the merits of the performance on the one hand as by the hearty unanimity of delight on the other. When Mozart took up his pen to write music for the clarinet, he must have had in imagination a player such as Mr. Lazarus. The stringed instruments were in the same able hands which did justice to the opening quartet, and the ensemble was consequently perfect. M. Vieuxtemps and Mr. Charles Hallé played the sonata in D major for violin and pianoforte; and with this excellent performance the instrumental list of the evening was completed. We had, as before, some very satisfactory singing by Mlle. Florence Lancia and Mr. Winn. The young lady has an improvable and improving voice and style; the first, clear and fresh; the second, unaffected and agreeable. She has much to learn,—and what musician has not, even at an age thrice that of Mlle. Lancia? But that which she has already learned she has learned well. Her singing of Spohr's "Bird Song," to which the obligato was given by Mr. Lazarus, was proof sufficient of intelligence and study. She sang also Mr. Frank Mori's "Where art thou wandering?"—a ditty one would have been content to spare from the programme of such a concert.

We have nothing new to record of the English Opera at Covent Garden this week. Miss Louisa Pyne, who had been attending the sick bed of her father, is again singing in "Lurline;" and Mlle. Guerrabella is proving a most important and valuable ally. The theatre is always well attended, even on nights when Miss Louisa Pyne's name is absent from the cast.

The directors of the Crystal Palace keep up their course of winter concerts, the chain of which was broken last Saturday by the ceremony of presenting prizes to the successful marksmen of the 1st Surrey Rifles. To-day (Saturday) the names of Herr Formes and Ole Bull unite with that of Miss Whitty. This, we cannot help observing, is a handier and altogether a better designation than "Mlle." Whitty, the form previously used in reference to one of the most promising of young English cantatrices. Again, we ask, what is the rule, or is there any rule, for the titles of public performers? Why "Mlle." Anna Bishop, for instance? and why "Mme." Clara Novello and "Mme." Louisa Vinning? These are all Englishwomen, we believe. It is pardonable, if not praiseworthy, in M. Benedict and Signor Costa, who are almost naturalised among us, to affect the common English title of courtesy. We all know that they call themselves, and choose to be called, "Mr." Costa, and "Mr." Benedict. Knowing this, and knowing that the last-named gentleman is a Frenchman by birth, half a German by musical training (he having been the pupil of Weber), and an Englishman by long residence and associations, we are unable to comprehend the motive for Italianising him into "Signor" Benedict, which has been done in the Adelphi playbills. Was Mr. Boucicault thinking of "Much Ado about Nothing" when he announced that "Signor" Benedict had kindly furnished musical notes for "The Octoroon?"

## THE WINTER EXHIBITION AT THE FRENCH GALLERY.

MR. GAMBART is to be congratulated this year on having surpassed all his former pleasant annual picture-gatherings. Some of the works now on view at the cheery little French Gallery in Pall-mall are excellent specimens of our best masters, and the leaven of rubbish is of very small proportion. The "manufacturers" are of course represented—the Boddington and Williams prettinesses (and very pretty they are) are to the fore; but there is also a sufficiency of much higher art. This winter exhibition is not merely an agreeable lounge for the public, but an excellent chance for the rising artist, who here gets a position where his works can be seen at a time when there is no very great competition in picture exhibitions.

The gems of the rooms are three works by Clarkson Stanfield, numbered 49, 49A, and 49B. Two of them are seascapes, the third a bit of mountain scenery. Never has the veteran artist been brighter in colour, fresher in touch, or crisper in his atmospheric rendering, than in these little pictures. Besides Mr. Stanfield, the Academy is represented by Mr. Sidney Cooper, whose "Canterbury Meadows" are in his best style. Self-repeated he is, undoubtedly; but Cuypp himself never painted better cattle. By Mr. Ansell, whose "Pet Calves" are good, but whose "Harvesting" must evidently have been painted years ago, so totally inferior is it to the artist's present style. Mr. Frost sends some of his usual clever studies of the nude; and there is a capital picture by Mr. Dobson, "The Charity of Dorcas," beautifully coloured, and with great earnestness of expression in the various faces introduced.

Among well-known names Mr. F. Smallfield's stands conspicuous, and his fame will be increased by his present picture, "A Family Discussion," which has plainly been painted on the Meissonnier model, and though, of course, inferior to the great French master in finish, bears every evidence of good taste and hard work. Mr. Calderon's "Le Secret des Amoureux" is a pleasant rendering of the "old, old story," laid by the artist in France. Mr. Oakes has several charming landscapes, two specially to be noted, being "A Trout Stream" and "A Quiet Morning." Mr. Maguire sends a picture of Dr. Manette, in which the poor prisoner of the Bastille is depicted in a manner which shows that the artist has thoroughly entered into the spirit of Mr. Dickens' conception. Mr. Dickes has several very pretty heads. His idea of "Ophelia" is graceful and poetic; but his best subjects, perhaps, are two entitled "Joy" and "Sorrow." A cleverly-painted

landscape-study is Mr. Fenn's "Calm" (No. 86), erroneously numbered 87 in the catalogue. In "The Appointment" Miss Solomon has painted most elaborately a black lace shawl, and a very pretty female figure; it is, however, much to be regretted that this young lady will never represent any type of nationality but one. No. 81, by Mr. Haynes, is clever; but, surely, the boy's figure and attitude are almost exactly reproduced from a picture by Mr. Clark, who, by-the-way, in "The Fishmonger" is far behind the mark. Mr. Johnston's "Novice" (No. 115) looks as if she had just heard the scratching of a mouse: we presume, this was not the effect the artist intended to convey. Mr. Marks' "Sunshine" is unfortunately named; it is a very nice little picture, conveying an idea of rest, peace, quiet happiness, but not sunshine. Mr. Crosey has several excellent landscapes, and a set of four which he calls "The Seasons," representing Spring in England, Summer in Italy, Autumn in America, and Winter in Switzerland, are, after Mr. Stanfield's, perhaps the most taking in the room. There are many other pictures which will repay observation, notably those by Messrs. Koekoek, Gale, Lidderdale, and Rossiter. Mr. G. Hering's Italian pictures are, as usual, charming.

## TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE IN EDINBURGH.

A SAD calamity happened on Sunday morning last in Edinburgh. At ten minutes past one o'clock one of the immense piles of building characteristic of the High-street of Edinburgh suddenly and without a moment's warning fell, burying a great number of people in the ruins. The house was situated on the east side of the High-street, about halfway between North-bridge and the ancient building known as John Knox's House. To the front the building showed seven stories, and in the rear there was an additional or sunk story, owing to the sloping character of the ground. The frontage was 60ft., the depth about 40ft., and the height of the structure was 70ft. to 80ft. On the east or under side a very old wooden-fronted house, three stories in height, adjoined the fallen tenement; and another house of the same character, also several stories less in height, was at the other side. In the rear one-half of the house had windows to the alley called Bailie Fyfe's Close, and on the remainder of the rear abutted the gable of a tall house entering from the close and communicating with the front building. Like most of the houses in that part of the Old Town of Edinburgh, the destroyed building, which is believed to have been one of the old wooden houses of the sixteenth century, masked by a more modern stone front, has seen many vicissitudes of fortune, and, from being the habitation of nobles and lords, has descended in the social scale until it has reached the humblest class, nearly every room giving shelter to a distinct family. The immense block of building was thus densely populated, and it is estimated that not less than one hundred people must have dwelt in it.

On Saturday afternoon the occupant of one of the shops on the street floor observed a slight break in the plaster, and a deflection of the roof, and immediately sent for a builder to examine the structure. A temporary prop was inserted, and, after examining the upper stories of the house without discovering signs of a general depression, the builder concluded that the flaw was merely a local one, and no further steps were taken. Within twelve hours, however, the whole house fell inwards, and collapsed with a fearful crash. On the clouds of dust subsiding, it was found that the roof, the whole seven floors, and the substantial stone wall in front, had descended in one heap. Efforts were at once made to relieve the unfortunate sufferers, and with this view the fire brigade were summoned, and in a few minutes a large body of men were set to work. The darkness of the night added greatly to the difficulty of the labour, and the high gables, unsupported on either side, threatened at every moment to add to the fatality of the occurrence by burying the men engaged in removing the rubbish. The burners were removed from the street lamps to obtain additional light, and a large number of torches were also procured. As day dawned the work was carried on with redoubled vigour, but after seven o'clock in the morning no living bodies were removed. Towards afternoon it became a serious question with the authorities whether the risk of continuing the search was justifiable, and, seeing that many hours had elapsed during which only dead bodies had been exhumed, it was resolved to desist from further excavation. Up to four o'clock twenty-two deaths had been recorded, twenty of that number being dead when extricated, and the other two having died in the infirmary shortly afterwards. There were besides forty-three persons carried to the Royal Infirmary more or less bruised and hurt, and several children who had been taken out unhurt were in charge of the police. In this way about forty of the inhabitants had been accounted for, but numbers who had escaped uninjured could not be ascertained, nor could the numbers of the tenants.

The catastrophe created an immense sensation in Edinburgh on Sunday, and the terrible event was referred to in almost all the pulpits. Never before in the history of the city had there happened such prodigious loss of life from a domestic accident. The fall of a house has on various occasions taken place, and in a town where domestic structures have, so to speak, so long a life, the event has been matter of little wonder. But generally the case has been that of some crazy, condemned, and deserted building. In the present instance a building never officially examined or reported insecure, but, nevertheless, rotten to the core in all its timbers, fell in a moment, overwhelming its inmates in death.

On Monday four more bodies were found, and on Tuesday three, making in all twenty-nine deaths up to Tuesday evening; but it was believed that at least seven more were still in the ruins.

POISONING OF WATCHMAKERS BY COPPER.—Dr. Perron, of Besançon, has made some researches on the above subject which are of interest. For several years the manufacture of watches in Besançon has greatly increased; there are now about 300 watch-manufacturers, who employ about 3000 workmen. These workmen continually handle gold and copper, and statistical observation has proved that mortality by consumption is exceedingly great in this class. Out of 200 deaths of watchmakers no less than 127 are caused by tuberculosis, and of the deaths by consumption in the whole population of Besançon the watchmakers furnish 40 per cent., while the proportion of the number of watchmakers to that of the other population is not 3 per cent. Dr. Perron believes the following to be the causes of this great mortality: the sitting posture which the men are obliged to retain for so many hours in the day, and the necessity of remaining in a cold room without exercise; the irritation of the lungs by metal dust; and the proxymus of fever caused by the absorption of copper. The latter is thought by Dr. Perron to be the most important cause.

LOSS OF THE STEAMSHIP NORTH BRITON.—The Canadian screw-steamer, Anglo-Saxon, from Quebec, reports that the North Briton, which left Quebec on the 2nd, and was due at Londonderry on the 15th inst., was wrecked on the 5th on Parquet Island, one of the Mingan group, on the coast of Labrador. All her crew and passengers are on board the Anglo-Saxon, except seventeen of the former and two or three of the latter, who got adrift in two boats. However, there is reason to believe that these were afterwards picked up by a schooner which was seen by the Anglo-Saxon off Metis. The captain and the second, third, and fourth officers of the North Briton remained behind near the ship. A portion of the mails had been saved, and have arrived. The vessel is a total wreck, and the greater part of the cargo, passengers' luggage, &c., has been lost. Very tempestuous weather had been experienced after the North Briton sailed from Quebec, and a thick fog, with heavy rains, prevailed at the time the vessel went on shore.

THE POOR AND THE WORKHOUSES.—DEATH FROM EXPOSURE.—In the cold, wet weather of last week a poor lad applied for and obtained an order for admission into the casual ward of the Isleworth Workhouse, but, after an hour and a half's wait to the place, he was told it was full and he could not be received. The poor fellow attempted to leave, but staggered so that he could not go far—a circumstance which elicited from the sexton of the union the charitable remark that the man was drunk. For four hours and a half he lay thus exposed to the cold and wet, and when at last admitted no medical assistance was thought necessary for the "drunkard" applicant. He died the following day. The coroner's jury very properly appended to their verdict of "Accidental death" a severe censure on the conduct of the porter of the workhouse.







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